

Greece lodges protest with Turkey

ATHENS (R) — Greece lodged a protest with Turkey Wednesday, saying authorities in Istanbul tried to influence an investigation into the cause of an Istanbul bus fire which killed 34 Greek tourists. Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras handed the protest to the Turkish charge d'affaires in Athens. Deniz Bulukhast, government spokesman Byron Polydoras said. "Both official and semi-official authorities in Istanbul tried to prejudice the investigating process into the incident by attributing the bus fire to an accident," Mr. Polydoras said. He told reporters at Athens airport, where survivors of the inferno arrived, that Greece had also protested over an alleged delay in handing over the bodies to be transported to Greece. The bodies of those killed in Tuesday's fire were flown home on a Greek military transport plane on Wednesday. Istanbul Deputy Public Prosecutor Selahattin Ozkiper told the Anatolian news agency 34 Greeks and one unidentified victim died in the inferno. Survivors blamed arson, saying a bearded man in torn clothes had jumped on the bus, doused himself in liquid and set fire to himself, trapping passengers on the upper deck.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرائي

'No Soviet intervention in Iraq'

ATHENS (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said Wednesday he backed efforts to solve the problem of thousands of Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraq, but appeared to rule out any intervention in Iraq's internal affairs. "The Soviet Union is ready to participate in all efforts which could solve the Kurdish problem but these efforts or solution should not intervene in a country's internal affairs," he said in a clear reference to Iraq. He did not elaborate. Mr. Bessmertnykh, on a two-day official visit, initiated a Greek-Soviet friendship and cooperation pact with his counterpart, Antonis Samaras. He also met Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis. The pact will be formally signed when Mr. Mitsotakis visits Moscow later this year. Talks between Mr. Bessmertnykh and Mr. Samaras included bilateral relations, the Balkans, the Middle East, Cyprus and relations between the Soviet Union and the European Community. It is the first visit by a Soviet foreign minister to Greece since 1956. Mr. Bessmertnykh will return to Moscow on Thursday.

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Lebanon asks Algeria to mediate in dispute with PLO

ALGIERS (R) — Lebanon has asked Algeria to mediate in a dispute with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over the disarmament of its fighters. Mohsen Ibrahim, special Lebanese government envoy, told Algerian television on Tuesday night Algeria could play an important role in arranging a dialogue with the PLO. A close friend of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Mohsen Ibrahim was speaking after discussing the question with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. He had talks earlier with Mr. Arafat in Tunis. During a visit to Algiers on Saturday, Mr. Arafat said the PLO would accept the Lebanese government's decision to extend its authority over the whole country. But he added that there should be a framework that would guarantee the security of Palestinian camps in Lebanon and allow Palestinians to keep their weapons. He said Palestinian forces should not be considered as a militia.

Tunisian minister holds talks in Syria, to meet Baker

DAMASCUS (R) — Tunisia's Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya had talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Wednesday on the Arab-Israeli conflict and other regional issues. Officials and diplomats said the Tunisian minister would meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Damascus shortly after his arrival in the Syrian capital from Cairo Thursday. There have been no details disclosed on what the Tunisian minister would discuss with Mr. Baker or whether he would convey any message from the Tunis-based Palestinian leadership.

Petrol costs money again in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — After six weeks of filling their tanks for free, motorists in Kuwait found they had to pay for petrol on Wednesday for the first time since the war. Since the end of the war, in late February, state petrol stations had given fuel away free to help the estimated 500,000 people in the emirate — about a quarter of the normal population — while the government restored basic services. A litre cost 40 fils (15 cents) on Wednesday, the same as before the Iraqi invasion last August.

Finland expels Iraqi diplomat

HELSINKI (AP) — The Foreign Ministry Wednesday ordered the expulsion of an Iraqi diplomat who shot over the heads of demonstrators at the Iraqi embassy last weekend. Iraqi Embassy Attache Khalid Mohammad Hmoud has declared persona non grata and ordered to leave Finland by April 14, said Finnish Ministry protocol official Timo Jalkanen. Shots were fired out of a door of the Iraqi embassy last Saturday, over the heads of Kurdish demonstrators and a Finnish police officer who had tried to evict the protesters. No one was hurt in the incident. Two demonstrators who were detained for questioning were released later the same day. "In a written note to us, the Iraqi embassy said Mr. Hmoud fired the shots in self-defence," Mr. Jalkanen said. "However, he did not have a licence for the weapon and we feel he used it in excess of justifiable defence."

Shots fired at PLO office in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Shots were fired at the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Kuwait Tuesday night from a speeding army patrol truck, Palestinian officials said. "They shot at the building on Tuesday evening. They were trying to aggravate us," an official of the PLO said. No one was hurt. He said a Western journalist was in the building when "men in a Kuwait army truck fired several shots at the embassy," in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Hawali. PLO leader Yasser Arafat has been fiercely attacked by the six Gulf Arab states for backing Iraq in the Gulf crisis.

Iraq sends relief, urges refugee return

IRAQ, STUNG by attacks on its handling of a Kurdish rebellion, said Wednesday it was sending relief supplies and medical teams to the Kurdish north. Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh called on the refugees who have flooded the Turkish and Iranian frontiers to return. He said an intensive campaign was underway to supply northern Iraq with food and medicine following the crushing of the Kurdish rebellion there. "There is enough food for all," Mr. Saleh said in a statement published in the government daily newspaper Al Jumhuriyah and carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). Iraq has said it would cooperate with a U.N. mission due in northern Iraq soon to examine the plight of Kurds. Baghdad has bitterly criticised Western efforts to supply relief aid to hundreds of thousands of Kurds. Mr. Saleh urged the refugee Kurds to return. Iraq's offer on Friday of amnesty to most Kurds has been rejected by Kurdish groups. "Food-laden trucks are leaving continuously for the northern region," Mr. Saleh said. "Thirty-five trucks left the day before yesterday and 100,000 loaves of bread, plus one tin of baby milk for each child, are being distributed daily to those returning to the northern region since four days ago," he added. The minister said food would be delivered to each family in the northern Kurdish cities of Sulaimaniyah, Erbil and Dohuk. Iraq said on Wednesday that 13,000 people had already returned to Sulaimaniyah, one of the main centres of Kurdish unrest. The chairman of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Ibrahim Al Nouri, told INA Tuesday the distribution of food and medicines to "the sons of our Kurdish people in the north" began immediately after the Iraqi army recaptured the area from the rebels last week. Turkey and Iran are appealing for international help to cope with the influx of refugees. Britain has proposed establishing a United Nations-protected sanctuary for the refugees in northern Iraq but Baghdad rejected the offer, describing it as a conspiracy against Iraq's sovereignty and interference in its internal affairs. Thousands of refugees in mainly Shiite southern Iraq fled to Iran when their parallel rebellion was stamped out by the Iraqi army. Iraq has openly accused Iran of orchestrating the rebellion in the south and sending armed zealots to fight the Iraqi army. Shiite Iran denies any direct involvement in the rebellion. The Iranian news agency IRNA said on Wednesday that

refugees arriving at its southern border were still reporting clashes between rebels and troops in the south. Iraq's ambassador to Ankara pledged that his country will help Turkey distribute aid to the refugees crowded along their border, the Turkish Foreign Ministry announced. In another development, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported that two Iraqi refugees were crushed to death Tuesday when aid packages from Western planes fell on them. Military officials from the United States and France, the only two countries who conducted air drops Tuesday, said they had no information on the report and that their planes were not flying over the site identified in the dispatch. Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar told reporters Wednesday that Iraq's ambassador had informed Turkish officials that his country was willing to help transfer international aid to the refugees. Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Abdul Amir Al Anbari, said earlier his government would cooperate with a U.N. team due in Iraq soon to study the Kurds' plight. Iraqi Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi on Tuesday accused Iran and Turkey of interfering in his country's internal business

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New Iraqi cabinet holds first meeting

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq's new cabinet, at its first session on Wednesday, discussed the political situation, reconstruction after the Gulf war and the recent rebellions in the north and south. Baghdad Radio quoted Information Minister Hamid Yousef Hammoudi as saying it approved outline plans to rebuild damage caused by the U.S.-led allies and internal rioting in southern and northern Iraq. Over a million people have fled to Iran or Turkey since government troops crushed rebellions in the Kurdish north and mainly Shiite Muslim south after the war ended on Feb. 28. Mr. Hammoudi said the cabinet formed a committee due to meet on Saturday to set priorities for reconstruction. The cabinet was chaired by Saadoun Hammadi, appointed prime minister last month in a reshuffle by President Saddam Hussein. He is the first prime minister to head the cabinet since the Baath Party came to power in July 1968.

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Kuwaiti opposition vows unity, pressure

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's opposition groups, impatient for early elections, are counting on the gradual return of pro-democracy leaders from exile to add weight to their demands for early polls, activists said Wednesday. The four main groups are still working on a united response to last Sunday's announcement by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, that general elections will be held in 1992. It may be finalised later this week, the activists said. Most opposition leaders have cautiously welcomed the emir's pledge — but want polls within six months. "Elections should be held immediately," said Ahmad Saadoun, speaker of the last parliament, dissolved by the emir in 1986. He fled Kuwait shortly after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion and returned home this week. Ahmad Bagh of the Muslim fundamentalist movement Salafeen said the emir's offer was disappointing. "We must have elections first, right now, not postpone it for a year or more," the conservative Muslim Brotherhood and the liberal

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U.S. warns Baghdad

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has warned Iraq that it must cease all military action near areas where Iraqi refugees have fled, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Wednesday. Mr. Fitzwater said the warning applies to "all air and ground forces" of Iraq. He also said the Bush administration would seek additional funding from Congress for relief efforts. Mr. Fitzwater said the warning was issued "because we have people there giving out food and clothing." He said Iraq had stopped its military activities in the north. "They have ceased military activity in that area," Mr. Fitzwater said. "The United States has taken the lead in the refugee effort," Mr. Fitzwater said in disclosing that efforts will be made to seek additional aid from Congress for the refugees. "We don't have an amount yet...it is definitely going to be in the millions and millions," the spokesman said. President George Bush last week said he was authorising \$11 million in immediate U.S. aid for the refugees. Initial estimates say the effort is likely to cost at least \$400 million. Mr. Fitzwater said other nations have pledged a total of \$250 million towards the relief effort. Word of the U.S. warning to Iraq came only three days after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reiterated pledges not to become involved in the Iraqi unrest. Washington had maintained its reluctance to intervene despite pleas from rebels. The warning was first disclosed by an official travelling with Mr. Baker on his Mideast peace mission. The official said the aim was to safeguard airdrops of food, clothing and tents to the refugees that the United States began on Sunday. The warning draws a line at the 36th parallel and covers all of northern Iraq, including the cities of Mosul and Dohuk. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds live in the area. The action, in effect, asserts U.S. military authority in northern Iraq for the first time since the ceasefire. In the south, U.S. forces control about 15 per cent of Iraq. Iraq's fixed-wing fighter aircraft banned from flying by the U.S.-led allies, has been using helicopter gunships against the rebels in the north and south.



King receives Iraqi message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The message, delivered by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran

and Iraqi ambassador to Jordan Ismail Al Weis. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the Iraqi message dealt with the "close relations between the two brotherly states, Arab developments and questions related to the future and security of the Arab Nation." It gave no other details.

Baker tries to sell idea of regional conference to Egypt

Combined agency dispatches U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE James Baker ran into suspicion and scepticism from Arab states on Wednesday when he began the task of persuading them to attend a regional Middle East peace conference with Israel. Mr. Baker flew to Cairo from Israel, where he agreed on the concept of holding such a conference. But key details on who should attend and what should be discussed remained unresolved. Initial reaction in the Arab World was wary. Egypt and Syria restated their preference for a full international peace conference under United Nations auspices. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the plan seemed to fall short of expectations because it tried to bypass the PLO and U.N. resolutions. Khaled Al Hassan, a leading member of the mainstream PLO group Fateh, said the PLO insisted on a full international conference based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. The resolutions call for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967 in exchange for

secure and recognised borders. The U.S.-Israeli plan, agreed in principle on Tuesday during a visit by Mr. Baker, aims to pave the way for bilateral talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, a senior U.S. official said. The form Palestinian would take and the relationship between the regional conference and the United Nations system remain unclear. But Mr. Hassan said he thought the whole idea of a regional conference was misconceived. "This is the most stupid idea because they (the Israelis and the United States) will be talking to the wrong people. What do Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi have to do with the Palestinian problem?" he said. The regional conference would bring together Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the Gulf states and the Soviet Union with the United States in the chair. Arab diplomatic sources say. Some Palestinians would also take part. A senior PLO diplomat was less willing to dismiss the new ideas out of hand. "On such a crucial issue, some reflection and

thought is called for. It's not a time for hasty decisions." "The basic thing from our point of view is that any solution must be based on U.N. resolutions. It's not yet clear if that would be the case," he added. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was ready to confront Mr. Baker with a five-point plan of his own calling for Israel to relinquish land in order to gain Arab recognition. Other provisions in Mr. Mubarak's plan included a halt to new Israeli housing construction on the West Bank and in Gaza and the establishment of a Palestinian state. The Egyptian leader did not rule out the regional peace conference proposed by the Israeli government — provided it was to lead to an international conference. Israel's plan would have the conference held under U.S. auspices, preferably in Washington, with the Soviet Union a participant. Reporters travelling with Mr. Baker were told the Soviets

Arens hopes for Arab acceptance of new idea

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Wednesday he was optimistic Arab governments will agree to a regional conference that could lead to bilateral negotiations with Israel. In a televised interview, Mr. Arens said direct talks with Egypt had produced a peace treaty and he was optimistic similar talks with other countries could be equally successful. "We have some degree of optimism that if other Arab countries were to be ready to sit down with us, we could arrive with a settlement with them," Mr. Arens said. Israel will enter the talks without preconditions, such as a land-for-peace settlement of the Palestinian question, he said. Individual peace treaties with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and countries further away from its borders could be the beginning of a comprehensive Middle East peace agreement, Mr. Arens said. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker won Israel's agreement in principle to the regional meeting after two days of talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. He left Wednesday for Egypt to seek support for the meeting and will then go to Syria for the same purpose. In a separate interview, Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner said he did not believe reports that Egypt had already rejected the idea and would wait to see the outcome of Mr. Baker's talks in Cairo. "I would not take this no for an answer," he said. Mr. Arens said after the one-

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Minsk workers challenge Gorbachev's ban on strikes

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Tens of thousands of workers took to the streets of the Byelorussian capital Minsk Wednesday, dismissing economic concessions by local officials and challenging President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposed ban on protests. "That (is) something that we have been wanting to do now for many years. We did this with Egypt and did arrive at a peace treaty," he said. Mr. Arens reiterated the Israeli opposition to meeting with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The Palestinian issue, Mr. Arens said, should be discussed with elected representatives of the Palestinian people living in the West Bank and Gaza. A precondition placed upon Israel to give up territory to solve the Palestinian problem would not work, he said. "I think the attempt to introduce a formula that makes it incumbent upon Israel to make territorial concessions can only torpedo the whole process." An Israeli politician and member of the government was quoted by a German magazine on Wednesday as saying all Palestinians should be expelled from the occupied territories. Rehavam Zeevi, head of the small right-wing Mofdet party, said Israel should emulate Czechoslovakia's expulsion of ethnic Germans from the Sudetenland region after World War II. "(Czechoslovak President Eduard) Benes sent more than three million ethnic Germans from the Sudetenland to Germany

Georgian independence based on its statehood declaration of 1918, three years before being forcibly absorbed into the Soviet Union. Georgians voted overwhelmingly on March 31 to secede from the Soviet Union. The declaration made the republic of 5.3 million the fourth in the Soviet Union to declare independence, after the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. All 11 other republics have declared greater self-rule without asserting outright independence. Georgian leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia said in a letter Wednesday to Mr. Gorbachev that Georgia was ready to work out new political and economic relations with Soviet officials in Moscow, news reports said. "Considering your personal investment in the well-received changes in Eastern Europe and the world, and also your repeated expression of goodwill to the people of Georgia, I express the hope that you will ultimately fulfill your principles of democracy and recognise Georgia as an independent sovereign state," Mr. Gamsakhurdia's letter said.

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Iranian guards say they will not leave Lebanon until Israel does

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The commander of some 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards in eastern Lebanon says they will stay until Israel withdraws its forces from the country.

"As long as Israel is present we remain. But if Israel pulls out from Lebanon then that is another matter," Hadi Reza Asfari told Beirut's Al Safir newspaper in a rare interview published on Wednesday.

He denied that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards had any link with the kidnappers of 12 Westerners believed held in Lebanon and said that their humanitarian duty was to free all hostages.

The government of President Elias Hrawi has ordered all militias to disarm by the end of April or risk being attacked by Lebanese and Syrian troops.

Some officials have indicated that the Iranians are included among armed groups in Lebanon which should surrender their guns but others have said they will allow fighters who attack Israeli targets inside Lebanon to keep their weapons.

Israel holds a "security zone" in South Lebanon and says its troops will stay until a strong government in Beirut and the Lebanese army can end guerrilla raids across the Jewish state's border.

"We agree that all weapons (in Lebanon) point to Israel," said Mr. Asfari, who argued that the Iranians were exempt from the government order as they were not a militia but resistance fighters.

"We are not a militia. We came on the orders of the Imam (the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini) and in coordination with Syria and at the invitation

of the Lebanese people to train the people," Mr. Asfari said.

The Revolutionary Guards were sent to Lebanon via Syria in 1982 during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and are based in the Bekaa Valley town of Baalbek, 70 kilometres east of Beirut.

They train groups including the 5,000-strong pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God). Hizbollah members are believed to hold hostage most of the 12 Westerners kidnapped in Lebanon.

He said the question of whether the guards would abandon their stronghold in the Sheikh Abdallah barracks near Baalbek was a matter to be settled between Beirut, Tehran and Damascus.

The barracks are suspected by some Western diplomats to be one of the places where Western hostages have been held.

Asked when the Western hostages in Lebanon would be free, Mr. Asfari said: "You have to ask those holding the hostages."

"If those Muslims which we have a relationship with have taken hostages because of particular situations, this is not evidence that we are linked with the matter," Mr. Asfari added.

"Our humanitarian duty (says) we should help free the hostages... purely from our human consciousness there is no difference between Lebanese, Palestinian, American or Western hostages."

Mr. Asfari said that the hostage-takers were "small groups which have no relation to major parties." He repeated denials made by Hizbollah that it was involved in kidnapping the Westerners.

He said better relations between the United States and Iran depended on Washington releasing frozen Iranian assets and treating Tehran on an equal footing.

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"America is an aggressor. It tyrannised people and helps Israel. Death to America. America should abandon all these matters to have a relationship with us (Iran)," he said.

Washington froze some \$11 billion in Iranian assets after its embassy in Tehran was stormed in November 1979.

The United States says an improvement in relations depends on Tehran helping to free the Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Another Beirut daily, the conservative Al Diyar, said new efforts were under way to gain freedom for a Shi'ite Muslim cleric held by Israel before 'Eid Al Fitr, which falls next week.

Al Diyar quoted unnamed sources as saying Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, who was abducted by Israeli paratroopers from his home in Jibbeet in South Lebanon in 1989, would be freed with a group of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners. Al Diyar does not have a record of accurate reporting on the hostages.

The release of Sheikh Obeid, a fundamentalist cleric linked to the Hizbollah, has been demanded by hostage-holding factions as a prelude to freeing the Westerners.

Mr. Asfari's interview marked the first time a commander of the Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon spoke to the press since the contingent arrived in the Bekaa Valley in 1982. Mr. Asfari, who said he took command of the guards in Lebanon two years ago, also allowed his photograph to be taken.

Sadraddin Aga Khan heads U.N. Gulf relief operations

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Prince Sadraddin Aga Khan, a veteran troubleshooter, was named Tuesday to oversee all U.N. humanitarian operations in Iraq and Kuwait, and on Iraq's borders with Turkey and Iran, where hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled in recent weeks.

Prince Sadraddin, 58, is a former U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and until last December was coordinator of U.N. aid and economic programmes for war-ravaged Afghanistan.

The United Nations also announced that Eric Suy, a former director general of the U.N. office in Geneva, would head a fact-finding mission to the Kurdish region of northern Iraq to report on the plight of the population, as called for in a Security Council resolution last Friday.

Mr. Suy, 57, has also served as the U.N.'s chief legal official and is now counsellor to the foreign minister of Belgium.

He is expected to travel to Geneva soon to prepare a team and plans to arrive in the region before the end of the week. Baghdad has said it welcomes his mission.

The Paris-born Sadraddin stepped down only last month as the U.N. secretary general's personal representative for humanitarian assistance relating to the Gulf crisis.

It was widely reported at the time that he was angered that the task of heading a mission to survey the effects of the Gulf war on Iraq and Kuwait was given to another senior official, Under-Secretary General Marti Ahtisaari.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Prince Sadraddin was being appointed to the new post, as his executive delegate, "in view of the exceptional dimensions of the human tragedy unfolding in the region and the need for urgent measures by the U.N. system."

Prince Sadraddin, who will be based in Geneva, will have a wide mandate, assisted by a small staff drawn from various U.N. agencies.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar himself, meanwhile, reacted cautiously when asked about a British proposal, backed by the European Community, for the establishment of a U.N.-protected safe haven near Iraq's border with Turkey for the thousands of Kurds.

The secretary general told reporters he preferred not to pass judgement on matters being considered by the Security Council, adding: "But I share with the Europeans and others the great concern about the fate of the Kurds — not only the Kurds, we have to remember that there are also the Shi'ites who are involved in this unfortunate situation."

Asked whether there was a solid basis for establishing such an enclave inside Iraq, he said there was "always the problem of interference in the internal affairs of member countries. That is the old problem with everything which refers to human rights."

For some, he said, respect for human rights should authorise governments to go beyond the rule of non-interference while for others the non-interference rule was paramount.

But noting that Iraq had opposed the setting up of any such zone, he said that would make it more difficult to implement. "But I hope that some formula will be found in order to protect the Kurds and the Shi'ites," Mr. Perez de Cuellar added.

Text of draft approving U.N. Iraq-Kuwait unit

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is the text of a resolution, adopted unanimously by the Security Council Tuesday, approving plans for a U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) to patrol a demilitarised zone on either side of the Iraq-Kuwait border.

The Security Council, Recalling its Resolution 687 (1991),

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. Approves the report of the secretary general on the implementation of paragraph 5 of Security Council Resolution 687

(1991) in document S/22454 and add. 1-3 of April 5, 1991;

2. Notes that the decision to set up the observer unit was taken in paragraph 5 of Resolution 687 (1991) and can only be terminated by a decision of the council. The council shall therefore review the question of termination or continuation every six months;

3. Decides that the modalities for the initial six-month period of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission shall be as set out in accordance with the above-mentioned report and shall also be reviewed every six months.

Syrians spell out uncompromising stand

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Wednesday spelled out an uncompromising stand ahead of a Middle East peace mission by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and charged Israel was trying to sabotage Mr. Baker's initiative.

Official newspapers said Syria would accept nothing less than resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council calling for an international peace conference and withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territories.

They urged the United States and world community to use all means, including military action, to implement the resolutions.

Mr. Baker is expected in Damascus on Thursday. The backing of Syria, Israel's most implacable foe, is crucial for his mission.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, trying to coordinate the Arab position in Middle East peace diplomacy, sent his Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa to Egypt for talks Tuesday.

Mr. Baker has agreed in principle with Israel to work for a regional peace conference to be chaired by the United States and attended by Israel, the Soviet Union and Arab states.

Syrian editorials apparently setting the atmosphere for the Baker visit did not refer specifically to the regional gathering but

said Syria still supported an international conference.

"Israel would be gravely mistaken if she thinks for a second that Arabs could accept an incomplete solution. They want full rights as mentioned in the international resolutions," Al Baath, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, said in a front-page comment.

Al Baath and another official daily, Tishreen, launched a severe attack on Israel, accusing it of foiling Mr. Baker's efforts with a flurry of statements rejecting the peace conference and the return of occupied territories.

"After these statements what have the Israeli leaders left for Baker?" Al Baath asked.

"There should be serious international action to put an end to all aggressive policies by any party and to work to implement U.N. resolutions even if this led to what was during the Gulf war to implement these resolutions

Tishreen said that instead of searching for peace, Israel was pursuing expansionist policies by bringing thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants into the region.

Israeli leaders really wanted "to set up greater Israel at the expense of the Arab lands and by expelling more Arabs," Tishreen said.

'Iraq used Atlanta finance to develop arms industry'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Loans from an Italian-owned bank in Atlanta helped Iraq acquire chemical, biological and nuclear weapons technology, an expert in third world weapons proliferation was told the U.S. Congress.

Seth Carus, a research fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, told the House Banking Committee that Iraq stepped up its acquisition of unconventional weapons following its war with Iran, even though the war had drained its financial resources.

In the two years after the war ended in 1988, according to a 347-count federal indictment returned in February, the Atlanta branch of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro made more than \$2 billion in unsecured, unauthorised industrial loans to Iraq.

The previous two years, according to the indictment, BNL-Atlanta had made nearly \$2 billion in unauthorised loans, guaranteed by the U.S. government, to finance U.S. farm exports to Iraq.

In another development among the post-mortems on the Gulf war, the New York Times said Wednesday that the White House had instructed Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher to fire under-secretary Dennis E. Klosek for telling Congress on Monday that the administration had ignored his warnings to devalue the flow of advanced technology to Iraq.

Mr. Klosek, undersecretary for export administration, declined to comment when reached by telephone in Belgium, and both

the White House and the Commerce Department denied that such an instruction had been given, the newspaper said.

A federal grand jury in Atlanta is still investigating whether any of the more than \$4 billion in unauthorised BNL loans was used by Iraq to finance purchase of weapons themselves, as opposed to civilian technology useful for making weapons.

"The real significance of the BNL affair is that if Iraq had not been able to get the financial resources to support its activities, it would not have been able to do a lot of these things," Mr. Carus said.

Much of the high technology equipment sold to Iraq by U.S. companies in the late 1980s, for example, went to Iraq's Saad 16 complex, a ballistic missile development centre at Mosul, Mr. Carus said.

Congressman Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the House Banking Committee, released a list of nearly 300 companies, more than 100 of them American, that got BNL-Atlanta financing for contracts to supply Iraq with such things as chemicals, hydraulic truck-mounted cranes, furnaces, and tool manufacturing plants.

Neither Mr. Gonzalez, whose committee has been investigating the BNL scandal for more than six months, nor any of seven witnesses who testified Tuesday provided any new evidence to support Mr. Gonzalez's suggestion that some government officials may have known that BNL financing was being used to arm Iraq.

Afghan president vows to retake fallen town

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah has vowed that his government will retake the eastern town of Khost from rebels who captured it 11 days ago.

He also said the Western-backed rebels would not be allowed to turn the town near the Pakistani border into their base, the official Bakhtar news agency said Wednesday.

"We not only have decided to recapture Khost, but will achieve victories in other directions and will inflict crushing blows on (rebel) extremists," Bakhtar, monitored in Islamabad, quoted him as saying in a speech in Kabul Monday.

Khost was captured on March 31 after two weeks of intense fighting. Kabul accuses Pakistani armed forces of being directly involved in the fighting but Pakistan, the main conduit for weapons supplies to the rebels, denies the charge.

"Khost has been destroyed, no one lives in it," Mr. Najibullah said. "I am decisively stating that the extremists would not be able to set up their base there."

He accused Pakistan of wanting to convert Khost into what he called a "nest of pro-Pakistani elements" and to transfer their ammunition depots there.

"But they must know the Afghans will never allow them to do so. You will witness today or tomorrow the steadfastness and bravery of the sons of Afghanistan's tribes and nationalities," he said.

Pakistan plays host to major guerrilla groups who have fought the Kabul government for 12 years. Khost has remained under rebel siege for most of the war.

Thousands of Afghan government soldiers captured by insurgents in the battle for Khost have been told to embrace Islam and denounce communism or be killed, guerrilla sources said.

In the past, Islamic fundamentalists among the guerrillas have slaughtered captured Afghan soldiers.

The resistance scheduled a news conference for Wednesday in the Pakistani border city of Miranshah to parade four Afghan generals captured in Khost. The generals were to publicly condemn the Kabul government, confess their past mistakes and embrace Islam, the rebels said.

After the guerrillas overran Khost March 31, their supporters moved quickly to pre-empt revenge killings of the more than 2,000 captured soldiers.

"It proves that the Mujahedeen are honest in their promise of general amnesty," said Minhaj, a guerrilla spokesman who like most Afghans uses only one name.

"We have asked them to repent and they will — even if it's just to save their lives. Nobody will cling to communism once they have been captured," said Hamid Karzai, another guerrilla spokesman in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar.

Insurgents have been struggling to establish a civil administration in Khost that would handle the prisoners. But so far, sources said, the feuding guerrilla factions are jealously guarding their captives.

The rebels fear that any prisoners who are released will return to Afghanistan to resume fighting against the guerrillas.

"Most of the Mujahedeen are keeping their prisoners to make sure they don't return to fight with the Kabul regime," said Shauberat Nangyal, a spokesman for Jalaluddin Haqqani, the most powerful commander at Khost.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Austrian foreign minister in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock arrived in Cairo Wednesday for talks on Middle East peace prospects and post-Gulf war aid to Egypt. Foreign Ministry officials said. The two-day visit coincided with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's regional tour in renewed search of Arab-Israeli peace. The U.S. embassy said Mr. Baker was to meet Mr. Mock later in the day after he arrived from Israel. Mr. Mock will discuss economic assistance to Egypt as one of the countries worst hit by the Gulf crisis. He will also open a meeting of Austrian envoys in the region.

Cypriot president to meet with Major

NICOSIA (AP) — Cypriot President George Vassiliou will meet with British Prime Minister John Major Thursday to discuss the problem of divided Cyprus, the semi-official Cyprus News Agency said. Mr. Vassiliou was to leave for London on Wednesday night and will be in England for a week, meeting British officials and members of the Cypriot expatriate community, the agency said. The Cypriot leader has a meeting scheduled with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and is expected to see former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, it said. He will be accompanied by Foreign Minister George Iacovou. Both the United Nations and European Community have made recent efforts to solve the longstanding Cyprus problem. The island has been divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion prompted by a coup by Greek Cypriots who wanted union with Greece.

Polisario denies spokesman defected

ALGIERS (R) — The Polisario Front fighting for independence of the Western Sahara from Morocco, has denied that the spokesman for its president Mohamed Abdul Aziz had defected to Rabat. Ibrahim Hakim, the Polisario representative in Algiers, told a local radio station the spokesman, Moustapha Boul, was a Mauritanian who had decided to return home. "He decided to return to his country where he had been working since 1989 for an electricity and water company," Mr. Hakim said. Mr. Boul said on Monday he quit the Sahara guerrilla movement that has been trying to gain independence for 25 years. He urged others to do the same. Mr. Boul told Reuters in Paris he was returning home to Morocco on Wednesday. "I want all Saharans to go home," he said. "The Polisario leadership has no political vision. The world has changed. They haven't understood a thing." Boul was a member of the Polisario Front's politburo and in charge of a Polisario refugee camp.

Bahrain appoints ambassador to Iran

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain has appointed an ambassador to Iran which has been improving its links with Gulf Arab states since Iraq's August invasion of Kuwait. Emir Sheikh Isa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa issued a decree appointing Hamad Ahmad Abdul Amer as the new envoy in Tehran, the Gulf News Agency reported. Iran appointed Javad Torkhadi as ambassador to Bahrain last January after the two states upgraded their diplomatic ties. The move followed a visit to Tehran by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa, his first since the 1979 revolution in Iran.

Japanese to tap fossil water in Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — Japanese soil scientists want to find out if water deep beneath the sands of Eastern Arabia can make the desert bloom, according to a project spokesman.

A six-man team from Tokyo, sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, wants to use the deep ground water to irrigate an experimental farm deep in the arid Nejd steppes in southern Oman, said Susumu Tanaka, speaking on behalf of the group.

Oman covers a land area of nearly 372,000 square kilometres and is the third largest country on the Arabian Peninsula after Saudi Arabia and unified Yemen. Two thirds of Oman consists desert.

Driving sands and blinding glare combine with relentless 50 degrees Celsius (124 Fahrenheit) temperatures across the harsh and stony Nejd in summer.

The Japanese research work is currently focused on an 9,000 square-kilometre tract of sand 150 kilometres north of the provincial capital Salalah at Dawkah, where they hope to finish the desert experiment by November.

"The aim is to utilise fossil water (deep ground water) to set up a pilot, desert farm cultivating experimental crops," Mr. Tanaka said. "Following this prototype, farmlands could be spread, supported by sound irrigation systems, and a viable agricultural development programme could be established for the area."

The pilot farm is to be established on a 50-hectare tract. The Japanese team hopes to determine if there is enough water deep in the earth to support such projects.

Kuwait concerned at slow progress in fighting fires

AHMADI, Kuwait (R) — Kuwait's oil minister has voiced concern at slow progress in dousing 500 oil wells and said an international effort was needed.

"It has been somewhat slow, I'm concerned about it. But I think the companies are doing their best to move much faster," Rashid Al Ameri told reporters.

He was showing British Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Lilley around the blazing Ahmadi oilfield near Kuwait City.

More than 500 were on fire and about 80 more were gushing oil, creating a huge environmental hazard and putting Kuwait's oil industry out of action when the Gulf war ended in February.

About six million barrels of oil a day, or five million dollars an hour, are being lost, Mr. Ameri said.

U.S. firefighting companies called in to tackle the disaster had so far capped 23 wells and two fires had been put out, he said. He said some of the delay in fighting the fires had been because of lack of equipment.

"Now the equipment is arriving, the water has arrived from the sea. So the work is proceeding and we hope to go at a faster pace very soon," he said.

He said the problem experts were facing was not putting out the fires, which took just a few seconds, but in capping the wells. Many wellheads were shattered by explosives, he said.

Mr. Ameri said Kuwait would listen to anyone with ideas on how to tackle the blazing wells and not just the three U.S. and one Canadian fire-fighting company here so far.

"It's an international problem. Never in history has a problem of this magnitude taken place. We understand it needs efforts from different countries to put it out," he said.

"We are opening the floor for everybody. This is a big crisis. We are discussing it with the British, the French, the Iranians, the Chinese. We are opening the

door for any experience, anybody with new ideas," he said.

He said he had set up a committee to study new ideas for fighting oil fires and had so far received 250 ideas. "If there's a quick way for capping the well, we'd be glad to discuss it, with anybody," he said.

He said it would take a few months for Kuwait to get back to producing the 50,000 to 60,000 barrels of oil a day it needs to meet domestic consumption.

But he said he could not estimate how long it would take to return to its pre-invasion production level of 1.5 million barrels per day.

The firefighters estimate it will take 18 months to cap all of the blazing or gushing wells.

Mr. Ameri said he was concerned about possible lasting damage to oil reservoirs caused by water sweeping into them.

EC to give \$12m

The European Commission is to give up to \$12 million to help fight the fires raging in Kuwait, a commission official said on Tuesday.

The commission, the European Community's executive body, was due to unveil the package, which will be fixed somewhere between \$8 and \$12 million, at a news conference after its regular meeting Wednesday, the official told Reuters.

It is also considering whether to offer a further \$8.5 million to combat sea and air pollution and fund research into the long-term effects of the fires and programmes to deal with health problems arising from the environmental disaster caused by the Gulf war.

Officials at the commission said it was still not sure to whom the money would be given.

Environment Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana is expected to call for a meeting of oil companies and European firms which could take on the fire-fighting job to decide how some of the money would be used, they said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 75111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Children's programme
18:35 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Day by Day
21:10 The Black Forest Clinic
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week: "The Heat-ers"

PRAYER TIMES

03:48 Fajr
05:05 Sunrise/Duha
11:37 Dhuhr
15:12 Asr
18:05 Maghreb
19:26 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch Tel: 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel: 637085
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637440
De la Salle Church Tel: 661757
Terrence Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541
Anglican Church Tel: 623383, Tel: 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751
Armenian International Church Tel: 827981, 683236
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811205
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will remain cold, partly cloudy to cloudy and rainy at times. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Amman 9/17
Aqaba 14/20
Deserts 8/20
Jordan Valley 12/23

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 16, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bassam Karadallah 796200
Dr. Ramzi Mizzi 894788
Dr. Nabil Al Marzouki 615338
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayem 620115
Fire pharmacy 601912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 677055
Nabrook pharmacy 626672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649948
Shawkan pharmacy 637650

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Bishawi (—)
Al Shams pharmacy (278425)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ramzi Shalhin (—)
Khalaf pharmacy 954417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 63041
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 626800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information

(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 816615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-5320
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33200

More Jordanians tell stories of torture and horror in Kuwait

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAGHDAD — If it is true that those who suffer eventually become the tormentors of others then Kuwait may just be a case in point, as is evident from torture marks of former residents of Kuwait being expelled across the American-occupied Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. It is obvious that Kuwaitis have no love lost for non-Kuwaiti Arabs whose governments did not support the allied war against Iraq.

Reports of Palestinians, Jordanians, Sudanese, Yemeni and Algerian victims of torture are plenty in Baghdad daily as the torture victims transit through Iraqi hospitals on their way home.

Most are just happy to be alive and dismiss their torture marks as "not too serious." But serious indeed they are. Despite the presence of allied "liberation troops" in Kuwait, the torture appears to continue unabated. In a hospital room of the Iraqi Red Crescent in Baghdad lies Moussa Mohammad Ibrahim, a 26-year-old Jordanian-Palestinian who travelled to Kuwait at the beginning of January to get a brother and sister living in Kuwait out.

Ibrahim's siblings did not have the necessary money to leave the country and Ibrahim's attempt to travel out of the country before the U.N. deadline of Jan. 15 for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait failed. Before they could leave the borders were closed. Ibrahim continued to live in Kuwait with members of his family until

March 17 when he was picked up by Kuwaiti authorities, blindfolded and taken away. For six days Ibrahim said he was beaten and tortured with cigarette butts. Ibrahim, although blindfolded for the six days, says he was held prisoner with other men who had Jordanian and Sudanese accents.

No apparent reason was given for his arrest and after six days of consistent torture Ibrahim was released and "dumped" in the American-occupied Iraqi town of Safwan.

From Safwan Ibrahim walked and hitchhiked to Baghdad where he was treated for wounds upon his arrival.

Along with Ibrahim, two other Jordanians, victims share their experience with the Jordan Times. Muessal Al Khatib, 24, is a Jordanian medical science student born in Kuwait. Although he is a student at the University of Jordan, Muessal returned to Kuwait when he heard that his brother had been injured on Feb. 15. On February 29 Muessal was picked up by Kuwaiti "authorities" in the Salmia district of Kuwait City. He was taken blindfolded to a place he believes to be the Andalus school. There he was beaten with steel pipes and burned with cigarette butts for three days. From that he could judge there were at least 50 other people in the room with him.

His torturers, who, according to Muessal were Kuwaitis, accused him of being a member of an "organisation." Muessal denied the charges. According to Muessal, his torturers were both military and civilian personnel.

Omar Abdullah, 27, was born in Jordan and had been working for a year and a half in Kuwait before August 2. Abdullah is the most brutally beaten of the three and apparently the most bitter. The blue marks all over his back and legs show the severity of the beatings he received.

Abdullah was taken to a police station in Kuwait City and beaten on his head with a steel rod until he fell to the ground. Although Kuwaiti police hid him from an approaching American soldier, he was able to get the soldier's attention and finally the soldier told the Kuwaiti police to take him to a doctor.

Abdullah bitterly recounts stories of an Egyptian doctor who was ordered to falsify a medical examination, officially minimising the seriousness of his wounds, stories of a "school" he was taken to and where prisoners died of heart attacks while Kuwaiti guards played Russian roulette with them.

He remembers that he heard of one Palestinian prisoner, called Yasser, who died of his torture wounds. Abdullah never saw Yasser but he heard his head fall with a thump on the cement floor when he died.

Abdullah, like Ibrahim and Muessal, said they heard women scream in the background while in their "torture cells," but could not verify if the women were being tortured.

Dumped in the American occupied zone of Iraq, the three Jordanians are now safely home in Jordan, but their memories of Kuwait, they told this reporter, they will never forget.

Najjar: Holy See sent message to U.N. saying peace in Middle East has to be just

Pope urges applying Gulf criteria to Palestinian problem

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Holiness the Pope John Paul II has demanded that those who brought about devastation to Iraq apply the same criteria of international legitimacy with respect to Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus if they wish to bring about genuine peace and justice to the region, according to Monsignor Raouf Najjar, chancellor of the Apostolic delegation in Jordan.

The Pope, in a message to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urged the world community to refrain from imposing humiliation on the Iraqi or other people, and to help establish stability and peace in the wake of the Gulf war, said Monsignor Najjar in a statement to the Jordan Times Wednesday.

"Indeed the Pope's concern over the situation in the Middle East and questions of peace and security was manifested in convening a general conference for bishops from the Middle East last month to discuss the region's questions in the post war era," Monsignor Najjar said.

He said that the Pope gave due concern to the questions of peace and security among nations of the world and continued to advocate dialogue among various groups and faiths to achieve the aspired end, noting that certain hostile circles tried during the Gulf conflict to sow the seeds of dissension and divisions between Muslims and Christians living in this region.

Asked about the Vatican's position with regard to the national rights of the Palestinian people, Monsignor Najjar said that the Pope strongly supported the rights of the Palestinians in determining their future and establishing their independent state on Palestinian soil in conformity with the international



Monsignor Raouf Najjar

legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

"These are the principles which have to be adopted in the course of efforts to achieve peace, and it is incumbent upon the United Nations to implement its resolutions, as it did with regard to the Gulf question, and follow the same pattern of pressure and firm stand in the face of the forces of evil," Monsignor Najjar added.

The Pope warned that unless these questions were solved the poor and oppressed would face greater danger, he said.

"The world community should display a great measure of solidarity with those nations which took the brunt of the war, and the problems of the region should be settled in a just and neutral manner so as to avoid future conflicts," Monsignor Najjar added.

With reference to the non-existence of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican, Monsignor Najjar pointed out that such relations are voluntary, and the "Holy See, for instance, has no relations with Mexico or Eastern European countries, among others."

In each of these cases there have been specific grounds for

the non-existence of diplomatic ties and as far as Israel is concerned, he said, the reasons are certainly not theological but juridical.

He said that it was widely known that certain juridical difficulties continued to exist as "unresolved" problems related to Israel's presence in the occupied Arab territories and its relations with the Palestinians, the annexation of the Holy City of Jerusalem and the situation of the Catholic Church in Israel and the occupied lands.

Referring to the Pope's message to the U.N. secretary general, Monsignor Najjar said it expressed concern over the condition of the minorities within the Middle East region and called for continued dialogue among Christians and Muslims as well as between the Christians and Jews so that this would lead to better understanding.

He said the Pope had stressed that religious freedoms were bound to contribute to the cause of peace and emphasised the need for the U.N. to resolve all problems that had been causing tension.

"In particular, the Pope stressed that the bishops of the West and the Middle East support the U.N. organisation in its endeavours to establish peace, but urged that no humiliation or retribution should be imposed on any people of the region," Monsignor Najjar added.

He said that the Pope's message called on the U.N. to maintain and support international cooperation to help those people who are destitute and in difficult situation as a result of the war.

He said the message stressed that Mr. de Cuellar implement U.N. resolution on Lebanon and Palestine and that Jerusalem be accorded a special status in any future negotiations over the region's problems.

Jordan population to break 5m mark by end of century

AMMAN (J.T.) — By the end of 1990 Jordan's population stood at 3,453,000, but the number is expected to rise to 4,849,000 by the end of the present century and 5,670,000 by the year 2005, according to the results of a study conducted by the National Population Committee.

Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, in his capacity as committee chairman, announced the results, which, he said, resulted from the study conducted by a team of local experts supervised by the National Population Committee (NPC).

The team prepared several working papers dealing with fertility, mortality rates, immigration rates, based on the 1951-1990 estimates, so as to help reach the results, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The committee's Secretary General Mohammad Abdul Hadi Al Akel told Petra that a general census, conducted by the Department of Statistics in 1979, was also used to work out the estimates about the population of the country.

He said that between 1980 and 1985 the normal population growth in Jordan was at the rate of 3.4 per cent annually, and that this rate, plus estimates about migration rates, helped compile sufficient material for the study. Mr. Akel said that the study

expected that the annual population growth would drop to 3.1 per cent between 2001 and 2005.

According to the study, the rate of births will be around 34.6 per thousand while the mortality rate will stand at nearly 6.12 per thousand between 1990 and 1995. Life expectancy for males was put at 64 while for females it was 68, Mr. Akel said.

According to the 1990 figures, young people, within the 15-year age group, formed 43.6 per cent of the total population of Jordan, but will only make up 39.7 per cent of the population by the year 2005, Mr. Akel pointed out.

He said that the 15 to 64 age group, those able to work, would rise from 33.5 per cent in 1991 to nearly 37.2 per cent by the year 2005.

"The team of experts conducting the study was set up by the National Population Committee with the aim of preparing data about future population developments in the Kingdom since the information would be useful in various studies concerning education, employment, health, food security, etc.," Mr. Akel said.

He said that the National Population Committee and the Department of Statistics would maintain close cooperation in this matter to monitor all developments in Jordan's population growth in the future.

Jordanian nurses to hold meeting, discuss foreign labour

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian male and female nurses will hold a general meeting at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Friday to discuss the question of foreign nurses employed in the country.

"The employment of foreign female nurses in Jordan has increased lately, and without any justification, and it is estimated that 1,000 foreign nurses are now employed by the public and private sectors despite the fact that the nursing colleges are turning out more and more graduates," Nurses Association members told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i newspapers.

The Health Ministry estimates that Jordan would need at least 4,000 nurses by the end of the present century. The present number is barely 2,360, but the

nursing colleges are turning out more and more graduates who are employed in various hospitals.

In April, 1990, the Health Ministry said that non-Jordanian nurses working in the Kingdom were estimated at 575, but the Nurses Association now contends that the number has reached 1,000; it also says that many of the non-Jordanian nurses are brought into the country as maids who are later turned into nurses. Furthermore, the association complains that foreign nurses are paid double the wages of the local nurses.

"As more and more foreign nurses are employed, the local nurses will sooner or later find themselves jobless," said a number of association members.

The association has already submitted its grievances to the Health Ministry and has been airing complaints through the local

media and protesting about the arbitrary dismissal of Jordanian nurses.

All these issues, said these members, will be discussed at Friday's meeting which is expected to be attended by the majority of Jordanian nurses.

Issues like long hours of work at hospitals, lack of health insurance for nurses, and dealing with patients with dangerous illnesses are among those to be taken up at the coming meeting, they said.

Jordan at present has three nursing colleges turning out nurses and midwives with diplomas and two nursing faculties at the University of Jordan and the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

Her Majesty Queen Noor last November inaugurated the new building of the Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery which alone turns out 218 nurses and midwives annually.

Iraq and Kuwait, maintaining a demilitarised zone 10 kilometres into Iraq and five kilometres into Kuwait.

A contingent of about 300 combat field engineers will be sent to clear the border strip, heavily mined by the Iraqis and still littered with unexploded bombs, shells and missiles.

In addition, about 27,000 refugees and displaced persons are crowded into the zone, and U.N. officials are worried about crowd control if riots break out as U.S. army troops withdraw while the peacekeepers move in.

The United Nations will send five infantry companies of about 680 people drawn from other peacekeeping units in Cyprus, the Golan Heights, and Lebanon to enforce order.

UNIKOM is not responsible for law and order or other civilian functions in the area, however. That duty remains with the governments of Iraq and Kuwait.

Kuwaitis

(Continued from page 1)

1989 and January 1990 demanding the return of Kuwait's 50-member parliament, once the liveliest in the Arab World.

After a dialogue with Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, some deputies and activists were briefly detained for allegedly inciting unrest after the emir called elections last June for an interim national council.

The pro-democracy deputies — backed by student, labour and professional groups — boycotted the elections, calling the council toothless and unconstitutional.

Sheikh Jaber, bowing to opposition demands, dissolved the interim council in a speech on Sunday, his first since coming back to Kuwait after the Gulf war ended on Feb. 28.

The opposition believe they are growing stronger in the new situation created by the Iraqi invasion and Gulf war.

Match industry affected by war, but could revive if exports increased

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Gulf crisis has dealt a severe blow to the Jordanian match industries as Iraq used to be the main importer of Jordanian matches, but contacts are under way to open new markets in other countries, according to Mohammad Awadallah, deputy director general of the Jordan Industries and Match Company (JIMCO).

Mr. Awadallah said that besides Iraq, Tunisia, Turkey, Egypt and Lebanon used to purchase Jordanian matches, but Jordan is now seeking to sell the matches to Libya and Yemen as well to diversify its markets.

The two Jordanian companies, JIMCO and the Jordanian Match Company, have been earning for the country nearly \$3 million from their sales and continue to save the country \$2.5 million in hard currency by supplying the country with its needs of matches, Mr. Awadallah pointed out.

As for JIMCO, he said, its

monthly production capacity is 35,000 cartons, of which only 9,000 are sufficient to cover the local market's needs, while the rest is normally exported.

The other company, Mr. Awadallah pointed out, is operating under licence from the mother firm in Sweden and it only packs imported matches from Sweden.

Due to the fact that most of the raw materials used in the industry are found in Jordan, Jordanian matches have competitive prices when sold abroad, Mr. Awadallah said. "Jordan abounds with ammonium phosphate, glass powder and sulphur in addition to wood needed for the match industry," he added.

Mr. Awadallah said that his company employs 170 workers, but this number could jump to 260 once the country resumes exports in great quantities to foreign markets.

JIMCO, Mr. Awadallah added, has the capacity of multiplying its

production three times should more countries request to buy Jordanian matches.

"Certain raw materials used in the manufacture of the matches faced delays in reaching Jordan due to the trade embargo imposed on Agaba Port, which caused the company — JIMCO — to incur additional losses over the past few months," Mr. Awadallah said.

In order to make available sufficient wood for the matches, Mr. Awadallah said, JIMCO has suggested to the Ministry of Agriculture the idea of planting trees that can supply the required type of wood for the industry along the wadis and streams.

A feasibility study on this project, he said, has already been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and the company, together with the ministry, is taking steps to conduct an experiment on a specified plot of land before making a final decision.

Potash company to distribute dividends for first time

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) will distribute dividends to the shareholders this year in view of the net profits it accumulated over the past year, amounting to JD 39.6 million, according to APC's annual report.

The distribution of dividends will be the first since the company was established in 1956 and comes in the wake of several years of expansion work and losses.

Despite the Gulf crisis and its adverse consequences, which raised the fuel cost by 30 per cent, and despite the rise in insurance surcharge rates and the cost of freight, the company was able to export 1,404,217 tonnes of potash

to other countries, registering an increase of 11.6 per cent over 1989 exports, the report said.

It said that countries importing Jordan's potash were India, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, New Zealand, France, Italy, Zimbabwe, Spain, Brazil, Turkey, the Netherlands, Mauritius, Kenya, Malawi, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

According to the report, the APC sales brought in \$130 million, but the current expansion plans are expected to achieve further increases.

It said that this year APC is

expected to embark on a two-phase expansion project to boost production to 1.8 million tonnes by 1994, up from 1.4 million at present.

According to a feasibility study, the total cost of the expansion project will come up to \$106 million, but the total cost will be covered in six years of revenues.

The APC board said that the expansion project was being financed by the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank. APC is shared by Jordan, which owns 54 per cent of the capital, along with Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank.

Ministry assigns toxic waste dumping site, warns potential violators

AMMAN (J.T.) — Toxic materials and poisonous waste from Jordanian industries can be dumped at a site nearly 50 kilometres south east of here, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Wednesday.

The statement said that the ministry had embarked on arrangements to enable Jordanian companies to dump the waste at the site, located 55 kilometres north east of Swaga, south of here, as of the end of May this year.

"Special arrangements will be taken to ensure public safety and the protection of the environment from pollution in accordance with international regulations and the Basel agreement of 1989," the statement said.

Jordan was one of 110 nations that signed the international agreement on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste in the Swiss city of Basel in March 1989.

The agreement banned dumping dangerous waste in other countries, unless prior agreement had been secured, and outlined measures to be taken to facilitate international cooperation to implement its provisions.

The 28-point agreement provides for an exchange of information related to dumping dangerous waste and means of protecting the environment. The agreement, known as the International Agreement on the Transboundary Movement of Perilous Waste, is being implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The ministry has now assigned an 800 dunum plot of land, north east of Swaga, to be used as a dumping ground for dangerous materials and poisonous waste from factories, and has worked out special regulations for the dumping process to be supervised by a joint committee comprising representatives from the ministry and local industrial businesses, said the statement.

"No body or factory will be allowed to use the dumping ground for any purpose or dispose of waste in any manner without coordination with the committee," the statement added.

It said that the owner of a factory which dumps such waste at the site will be held personally responsible for any violation of the ministry's regulations. The decision was announced by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben at a meeting with owners of a number of factories which produce dangerous and poisonous waste.

The statement noted that several other meetings would be arranged to reach the most effective manner for managing the dumping site and the procedures of dumping and covering the poisonous materials.

"Each factory involved in the disposal of toxic materials will be submitting a list of the types of waste to be dumped and means of transporting and dumping the waste material," the statement pointed out.

It said that the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment would organise a field trip to the dumping site for representatives of concerned factories following the Eid Al Fitr holiday.

Princess Basma opened the bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the chairperson of the board of trustees of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QJAF), Wednesday opened a charity bazaar organised by the Orphans Care Society.

Princess Basma toured the various sections of the bazaar which display handicrafts, books and children's toys. Her Highness met with the

society's Administrative Committee and discussed with its members the activities of the society and its future plans and projects. Princess Basma approved a decision by the society choosing her as the honorary chairperson of the society.

Princess Basma also visited children looked after by the society and gave them presents. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of Social Development Yusef Al Atham.

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Jordan Times

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The missing link

IN THE spirit of dialogue and negotiations to solve problems, a proposal like that advanced for a regional conference might indeed be welcome. But under the current circumstances, that conference's idea touted by the U.S. and Israel seems to have overlooked two most essential elements: The part that should be played by the Palestinians in it and a role for the Europeans, who have equal, if not more, interests in a secure and stable Middle East as the Americans. It is naive to ignore the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in such a gathering and to see the deletion of any reference to a European role as an oversight since the American-Israeli move has all the trappings of a design specifically aimed at leaving out influential players from taking part in the peace process.

Jordan has been one of the consistent supporters of a conference on regional security, but not along the lines that the Americans and Israelis are apparently thinking about and moving. The Kingdom has always sought a broader framework, which deals with all problems of the region, including borders, water, oil and other natural resources as well as the interests of our immediate neighbours, the Europeans. What the Americans and Israelis appear to have done is borrow a chapter from the Jordanian call and twist and bend it to suit their vision of peace in the Middle East.

Needless to say that there might be a perception on the part of Israelis and Americans that any European involvement in the diplomatic process would only complicate things for them by adding new rules which would not serve their objectives of giving up as little as possible of Israeli demands and conditions.

It is a foregone conclusion that Israel has no interest in taking the wisest course for peace in the Middle East through bringing about an equitable settlement of the root conflict, the Palestinian problem, in all its dimensions. There is also little doubt that the Israelis want to avoid the fact that international legitimacy and justice should be the parameters guiding the future of the region.

What is most painful in the whole exercise, however, is the fact that Washington, which has been vociferously expounding its keen desire for just and durable peace in the Middle East on the basis of the legitimate rights of all parties concerned, seems to be going along more with Israeli ideas and thinking than with what should actually be done in light of the results of the Gulf crisis and war.

The obvious questions that Jordan would carry to Geneva for Friday's meeting between Foreign Minister Taher Al Masi and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker are: Why are the Palestinians and the PLO and why are the Europeans sidelined? Does the U.S. seriously believe that a forum which is devoid of key players could produce realistic results?

There cannot be credence to the argument that it is too premature for the PLO and the Europeans to enter the scene, since it is clear that without real and active Palestinian and European involvement from the very beginning there cannot be any hope for justice and acceptance of international law. While the PLO role has to be addressed in depth, it gives us hope to note that European Community envoys are also meeting Mr. Baker in Geneva on Friday. They ought to ask some hard questions and demand clear answers. After all, they were the ones who gave an unmistakable green signal to the Americans to proceed with the military option to end the Gulf crisis in the name of international legitimacy.

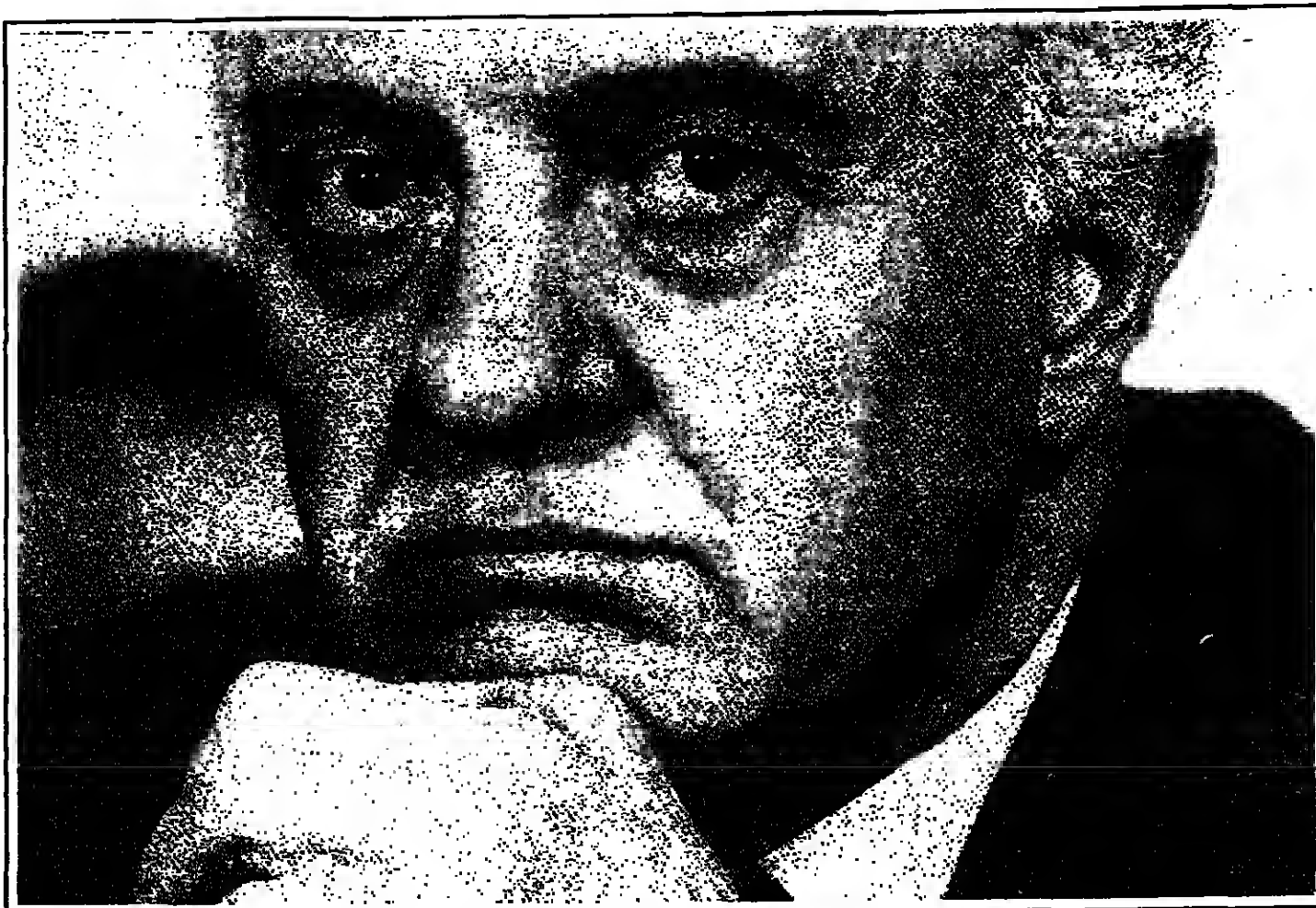
ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday criticised the United States and the other Western countries for focusing attention on the Iraqi Kurds and ignoring the rights of the Palestinians and the question of implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions. The United States keeps bragging about its concern over the establishment of peace in the Middle East, but avoids mentioning the rights of the Palestinian people and the need for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands in conformity with and in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, the paper noted. Behind the United States, stands the Western countries which echo statements about the Kurds, but do not take any step to implement U.N. resolutions on the Palestinian question as they did with the Kuwait question, the paper continued. Furthermore, the other members of the Security Council: the Soviet Union and China have proved to be totally feeble and devoid of the character of "major powers," taking no steps to come to the help of the Palestinians or other oppressed nations, the paper noted. We have the right to question the intentions of the U.S. administration which continues to condone occupation of Arab land and continues to ignore the national rights of the Palestinians while allowing the Israelis to consolidate their hold on Palestine by repression and all forms of atrocities, the paper added. Indeed, the paper said, the United States is trying to find a way to avert international legitimacy in the Palestine question by calling for direct negotiations between Arab states and Israel and by advocating the idea of a regional conference and not an international conference which would put an end to the Arab-Israeli question and find a just settlement to the Palestine problem.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily accused the U.N. Security Council of being transformed into a tool in the hands of those world powers trying to dismember Iraq. It seems that the conspiracy for the partition of Iraq is still continuing, and has now entered a new, dangerous phase, with the Security Council ignoring the U.N. Charter and involving itself in this dangerous game, said the paper. This conspiracy against a U.N. member nation is being carried out under the pretext of humanitarian assistance to the Kurds, but in fact it is designed to partition the Arab country to serve the interests of the Western colonial powers, it continued.

A democratic way with world affairs

By Eduard Shevardnadze



IT WAS a great challenge for me when the Guardian invited me to contribute an article for a series about the new world order in the company of some outstanding authors. In the first place, I don't have very much experience of writing for the press. A second unnerving factor was the reputation for quality that this newspaper enjoys.

What is more, since resigning from office, I find that I have not stopped thinking like a politician. I am still getting used to my new status and I ask the reader's indulgence should I sometimes express myself out of keeping with my current situation, or should I overstep the line that separates the private individual from the government official.

With these reservations I shall now attempt to address the subject in question.

I think that we must be very careful about the term "new world order." For better or for worse, I am a representative of a country which has failed to realise its ambitions, but has made ill-conceived attempts to create a "new man," a "new society," a "new way of life" and, in essence, a new order of things, at least within its own sphere of influence. The end results of these experiments are now well-known and I don't think that they need further elucidation here.

I needed to refer to this as a point of departure to prove that the world of which we are speaking and in which we are living is, to a large degree, a sensitive, nervous, unpredictable and even capricious living organism. Throughout the centuries, human society as a whole has demonstrated a remarkable capacity for survival and for organising its collective life. It has a strongly developed immune system which is designed to reject any social, political or economic "transplants" that are incompatible with the nature of man and society. Just as in medicine, these defensive systems may be weakened and ultimately overcome by special therapeutics.

For a nation state, powerful elements of this immune system have always been its national consciousness, its striving for sovereign and independent existence and ultimately for total control over its own destiny. However, in recent history, peoples have become more tolerant of one another and have begun to gain a sense of belonging to a single community of mankind, which not only brings a good many advantages, but is also absolutely essential for the survival of a given society in the form of a nation state.

These changes in traditional thought were brought about in the main by massive and revolutionary transformations in lifestyles and social relations, and in the understanding of the forces and direction of progress.

The imperative of integration on a regional and even on a global level was widely acknowledged and transformed into a kinetic force of national politics and economic reconstruction.

On a theoretical level, this is properly understood in my country but, unfortunately, where practice is concerned, it can be said that we have fallen way behind. Of course, the situation in the Soviet Union may at best slow down, or at worst halt the passage towards a new world order. But let us suppose that the difficulties caused by our backwardness will be brought under control at the same time as the movement towards this new

world order safeguards and strengthens itself.

Whilst keeping in mind such a favourable development of events, I should like to return now to the theory that it is essential that the instruments of the new world order and the natural evolution of our world be compatible.

It seems to me that from an historical perspective we are moving towards the formation of a global civil society based on the precepts of law. If this is the case, then it would be worth seeing whether we couldn't approach international problems and challenges more or less in the way that democratic systems resolve domestic issues.

I suppose it is quite possible to begin working out a system of incentives and penalties which would give states a strong motivation for conducting themselves in such a way as to strengthen political stability, stimulate economic growth, advance human rights, promote high ecological standards, and so forth and gradually introducing them on a global scale.

The success of many programmes aimed at protecting the environment in a number of countries proves that an appropriate combination of regulatory measures (on both a state and an international level), loans on favourable terms and a supply of essential technology, might provide an effective solution to the problems of developing countries.

In this connection, may I be so bold as to propose the introduction of an ecological tax on all international sales of oil, the returns from which would go into a special fund at the disposal of the United Nations or of its Environmental Protection Agency?

In precisely this same way, an international community would be able to encourage development, giving priority to food production, the manufacture of essential goods and housing. Existing financial institutions do, in essence follow such a policy. But we shall never get the proper results or reach a

higher rate of development if we are unable to comprehend that we need an integrated approach to practically all the problems of the modern world, beginning with child care, family planning and education, and ending with legal demands for the national security of every state and wider problem of law and order on a global level.

I intentionally began by speaking of problems of environment and development, because I think that before talking about a new world order we must arrive at a clear view of what this future world will be like. Are we aiming to create uniform spaces in which people will live in better conditions and under firmer guarantees that human rights will be observed?

In my opinion, we should first of all say that a new world order means universal democracy, even in international relations, respect for human freedom and rights, a market economy, and also the fair sharing of the burdens and rewards of international co-operation by all members of the world community.

Like any good local administration, we must aim to encourage the prosperity of society, to support and develop the essential infrastructures, to provide medical and other services, to help the needy and, of course, to maintain law and order.

If, in a given society, there is agreement about the fundamental values of organising life, then in such a society problems of law and order, peace and security, may more easily be resolved.

Here I should like to address the current problems in my country. A significant part of the chaos and confusion, the breakdown of law and order can be attributed to the large and deep divisions that exist between various segments of the population on such questions as the values and goals of our society. The very fabric of our civil society has been torn apart by philosophical divisions and irreconcilable attitudes.

I strongly disagree with those people in my country who suppose that force and punishment are the best means of restoring law and order.

To the same degree, I cannot support the point of view that force can safeguard international peace and stability. Of course, it would be extremely naive to rely upon conviction and argument alone when dealing with lawlessness in the city, state or in international relations. The forces that maintain order are and will remain an inescapable feature of our life and our world.

In civilised societies, law and order are upheld in a regulated and controlled fashion under the supervision of the legal authorities and within a framework established by law. Usually such a system works remarkably well.

Perhaps we shall succeed in creating a new world order if we can transfer the appropriate elements of civil law and order to an international model for maintaining peace and security.

First, we must accept the idea that there exists a higher and legal authority for the control and government of international actions, including cases involving the use of military force in the struggle against contraventions of international law and of accepted standards of behaviour.

Such an authority does exist. It is rooted in the U.N. Charter which stipulates special procedures for operations of this kind.

The Gulf crisis showed that the United Nations Security Council is a powerful and effective body which, in the new political environment of the post "cold war" period, may play a decisive role in determining what is just and what is not, and in sanctioning acts for restoring peace and guaranteeing the rights of individual states.

The U.N. Charter is a universal code of law which all members of the international community are obliged to uphold. It is there and we can use it. This is what we did during the crisis in the Gulf. It was a first attempt and it proved successful.

But the fact remains that our actions were not in accordance

with the original stipulations of the Charter. The reasons for this were understandable. But now we have the experience, we have the confidence and we have the time. I think all the same that we should follow the U.N. Charter the whole way. This means that agreements should be signed with the permanent members of the Council under the terms of which military contingents will be placed before the Council, while the Chiefs of Staff Commission will simultaneously begin to perform the function assigned to it under the Charter.

In my view, it is important to have two levels in the Security Council — political and military. Such a division of planning is essential if, in the event of a future crisis, we want to arrive at a more balanced outcome. It goes without saying that the Security Council will remain a higher political authority for decision-making.

I shall not go any further into this aspect of international law and order, in as much as the U.N. Charter provides us with all the necessary information.

Better, I shall turn to what is missing from the document. I have in mind the threat presented by weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, chemical and biological. We cannot seriously speak about world security without deciding what is to be done about this threat. The main problems here are the spread of weapons, blackmail and acts of terrorism.

Nobody feels comfortable having nuclear or chemical weapons in his own backyard, or anywhere in the neighbourhood. An absolute majority of people think that they would be better off without nuclear or chemical arsenals. On the other hand, we should find ourselves in a very unpleasant situation if, in a nuclear-free world, we were confronted by terrorists who had a couple of atom bombs or nuclear missiles.

Clearly we need to have some protection against blackmail and acts of terrorism. But, if we continue to rely on individual stores of nuclear arms, even though

significantly reduced, then this will inevitably lead to the spread of nuclear weapons, insofar as it will be impossible to refuse other countries this same protection.

Here again, the best practical way out is to go through the United Nations. Let us go back in time and look again at the original United States project for placing atomic weapons and technology under international control. Perhaps in place of several nuclear umbrellas, we should create a single "blue" shield against the nuclear threat. I think that a smaller umbrella, but one that covers everyone, would be a real alternative both to a nuclear-free world and to a world stockpiled with nuclear weapons.

This was unthinkable at the beginning of the cold war. Perhaps, now that its over, we shall see the merits of this old idea.

For some time, missiles of various kinds had looked attractive to those few countries which could afford the luxury of inventing and manufacturing them. But now, the world is approaching a situation in which missiles — ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles), sea-launched missiles, air-launched missiles and others — will become available to many countries, both those with the technological capability to produce them and those with the money to buy them.

In these days of the "Patriot" system, missiles are likely to become very popular at military "fashion parades" and will fetch good prices. And very many good minds will sit at laboratory computers experimenting with anti-Patriots or missile interception systems. A lot of money and talent will be spent on this.

Perhaps we shall attempt to regulate this never-ending race and shall work out some restrictions and prohibitions.

A couple of years ago, I drew a parallel between the protection of one's house and of one's country. It would of course be stupid if a person did nothing to protect his or her house from burglars. He, or she, would live in greater security if there were good locks, strong doors and bolted windows.

But what if the burglars used a bulldozer to break into the house? Is it necessary to build cement walls two metres thick to protect against this eventuality?

Or is it better to help form a good urban police force and to install an efficient alarm system, relying on the police to arrive quickly and to deal with the burglars?

Each country faces such a choice. History teaches us that no fortress can offer absolute protection, just as there is no absolute weapons of defence.

For me the essence of the new world order means creating mechanisms for upholding law and order for each and every person under the aegis of the United Nations.

And one last thing. The world is threatened by instability from various corners. There are several causes for these processes, but there can be only one remedy — the development of co-operation on all levels. Only in this way can a strong network be created which will keep all of us together as citizens of the world — of a united and complete world.

Mr. Shevardnadze was Soviet Foreign Minister from 1985 until his resignation in December last year. He now heads a new foreign policy research institute in Moscow. The article was reprinted from The Guardian under the same headline.

LETTERS

Social development and media images: More than meet the eye

To the Editor:

I read a report in Arabic about an editorial published in your newspaper seemingly titled "Anti-Social Development," in which the measure adopted by the Ministry of Social Development to segregate male staff members from female staff members is criticised and branded as a kind of racial discrimination and as being contradictory to the basic rights of equality in the workplace as far as the law is concerned. According to the report, your editorial claimed that such segregation takes Jordan back to the dark ages.

It is truly unfortunate that a Jordanian newspaper published in Jordan to present a genuine picture to foreign guests about the Jordanian society, its values, customs and traditions should in reality express views about our traditions and values similar to those expressed by the hostile media in the West. Actually, the Jordan Times and most of the English media in Jordan which are supposed to serve as means to enlighten foreigners and explain to them the wisdom behind the teachings of Islam, the religion of the state and people in Jordan, and rid them of many of the misconceptions that they usually bear as a result of the influence of foreign press — have been doing exactly the same as the anti-Arab and anti-Islam media are doing in Europe and America, namely: distort the picture of our values and repulse European and American peoples from learning the truth about our religion and traditions.

Regarding the issue of "segregating" male and female staff, I would like to point out that your comment overlooked two facts: The first is that there is no scientific evidence or proof that segregating males and females at work place necessarily contra-

dicts development and prevents the proper execution of duties and responsibilities. To the contrary, there may be more evidence that segregating them can result in improving output and increasing efficiency. However, any talk in this regard has to be based on scientific data stemming from unbiased research.

Furthermore, the dark ages in Islamic history are nothing but our present time because the Arabs and the Muslims were never worse as far as progress and development are concerned than they are now. The dark ages your article refer to were actually the golden ages; when students from Europe used to come and seek knowledge and education in Arab and Muslim schools and colleges.

In those ages men and women were not mixing freely, but nevertheless, the Muslims progressed and developed and even led the world, in fact they were a superpower. In comparison, where are we in the world now? We are backward, inferior, and dependent upon aid that comes from the same nations that conspired to destroy us after having colonised us and divided us into many minute weak nation-states. Why? Because we copied Western culture without refining it from impurities. Such impurities are causing Western societies to suffer.

The second fact your editorial overlooked is the fact that segregating men and women in workplaces conforms with the teachings of our religion, Islam, being a comprehensive way of life, is a perfect system that deals with all aspects of our social, political and economic affairs in addition to spiritual and moral affairs. Therefore, criticising a practice based on an Islamic principle is considered "at least" an insult to Muslims, not to mention other implications. Furthermore, nonessential mixing between men and women and removal of all constraints on

relations between the two sexes is a character of Western culture but is certainly not a source of development and advance, neither in the West nor anywhere else. In fact it has been a source of disarray, moral degradation and corruption. As a result, family ties were weakened and broken and humans imitated animals and even exceeded their doing. No sir! we are a divinely guided nation that does not accept whatever comes from the West just because it is Western. Perhaps it is the West which should now look for solutions to its social problems in the teachings of our religion, and that is why a great responsibility is borne by us, the Muslims, to provide guidance for afflicted and misguided nations.

In such matters that relate to Islam and its teachings, your newspaper is advised to seek the counsel of scholars. In this particular case you could have at least interviewed Mr. Yusuf Al Azem, the Minister of Social Development, and asked him about the move, its motives, objectives, advantages and disadvantages.

Finally, most people who work in offices where men and women mix freely know well that such offices — especially in the public sector — produce very little compared with the number of staff employed, and know also that much of the time is spent on gossip, showing off and pretending. In fact, although such mixing cannot alone be blamed for the above phenomenon, it is one of the factors responsible for administrative corruption.

I hope that the Jordan Times will assume a role in introducing Islam to our guests and that its staff editors will not be offended by this comment which is not meant to cause any offence.

Azzam Tamimi,
Islamic Movement Parliamentary Office,
Amman.

Inspiration and hard work produce a rainbow of tradition

By Debbie Lovatt

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — In early summer when sheep are sheared Khalil Burgan goes to Mafrqa and Irbid, in the north of Jordan, to fetch fleeces directly from the bedouins there.

Lena, Khalil's wife, supplies the ideas and inspiration whilst Khalil takes care of the administrative side of the small soft furnishings business the couple established two years ago.

Walking into the uncluttered shop, close to the Second Circle, one sees household furnishings ranging from slippers to rugs to

tea cosies and place settings, as well as a few clothes and pieces of jewellery.

For two years now, Lena has been merging traditional designs with present-day needs. One example of this is a bathroom set — towels, bathmats, bathrobes and slippers are tied in with the same coordinating embroidery or fabric — and all items are washable.

The business is small. One man works to make rugs on the loom seven or eight hours a day (except Fridays), eleven women are employed to put together the sewn items and forty to fifty

women — most from the Palestinian refugee camps around Amman — are employed to work at home on embroidery.

For the women who work at home, the problem of not being able to go out to work whilst maintaining a house and raising a family is overcome.

Khalil explained that "all the women start from scratch and we train them. They are paid according to how much they produce. In the beginning they make JD 20 — 30 per month, but once they are more proficient they can earn over JD 150 per month."

Many colourful rugs are displayed in the shop. Khalil, who also works as a civil engineer, describes why their creation is a long process: "After getting the wool from the bedouin in the north it is taken in two trucks to Wala Stream in Wadi Mujib. Two or three people stay there overnight to wash it and dry it in the sun. The wool is stored in the shop and then sent out in batches to women in Jerash and Madaba to be combed and spun. The women use the traditional spinning-top kind of spindle. Balls of wool are then returned here for dyeing. We use imported dye as natural dye is very expensive and hard to find."

Once the wool is dyed it is ready to be transformed into rugs. The weaver follows a

sketched design and works the loom until the rug is completed. Shapes such as triangles are sewn by hand.

For rugs and products with embroidery, Lena has researched old regional designs as well as Islamic patterns. The colours, however, may not be traditional as the range is now larger since man-made dyes are available.

On one cushion there is the design of a bird. The idea was taken from the "Bethlehem thobe (dress)". Women used to embroider two such birds on their dresses and although the meaning behind this is now lost, the bird motif is synonymous with the Bethlehem area.

Lena uses all the leftover bits of material in many ways, but patchwork is, perhaps, the most charming: "We looked through many books about costume and found that although patchwork is not often used now, it was once quite common," said Khalil, whilst turning upside down his desk to find some of the books about costume and design which were hidden under a colourful array of semi-finished embroidered cloth, cushions and other items ready for a harsh quality check before being completed.

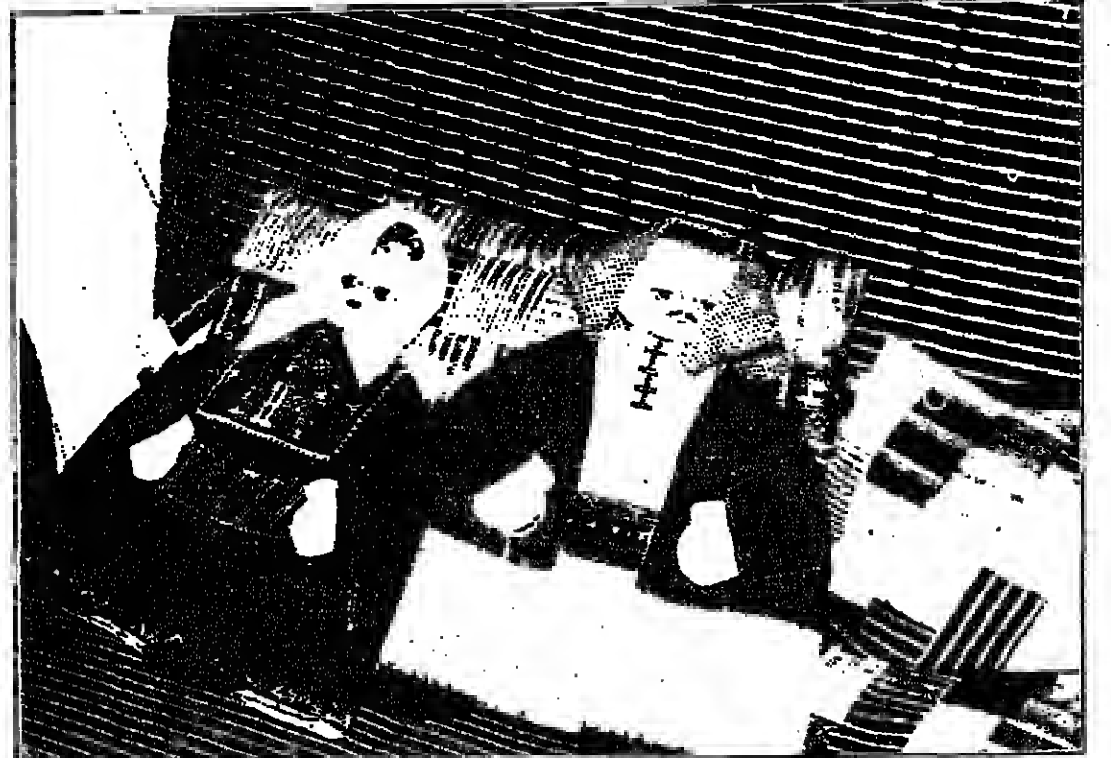
One of Lena's latest ideas is covering photograph albums to be given as a gift to new parents. The inspiration for this idea is obvious —

Khalil is the proud father of a two-week old baby girl.

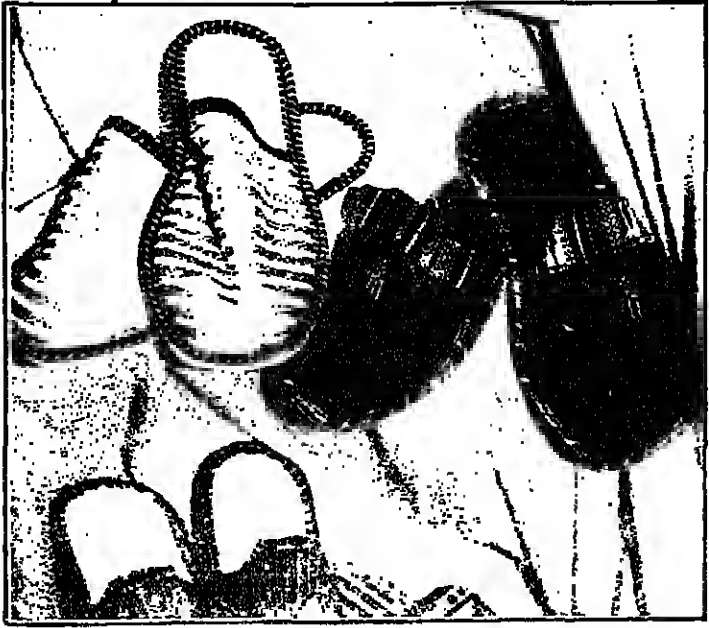
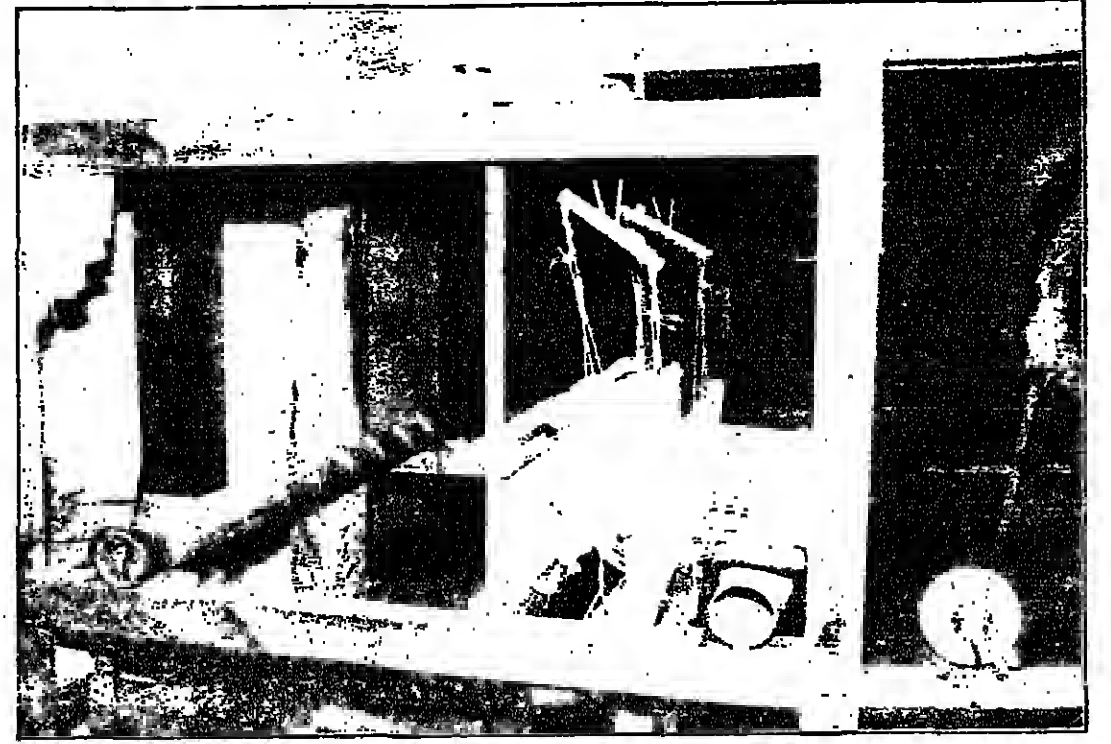
Happily, this small business, which aims to use as much local labour and materials as possible and keep alive and popular the traditional designs of the region, has not suffered irrevocably from the damaging effects of the Gulf crisis.

"When the Gulf crisis started many of our competitors, who were less interested in quality than the money from selling their products to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, gave up. Then after Christmas, the business stopped for about two months. The slowdown was because people were waiting before paying for goods already received and because overseas orders couldn't be shipped. Things have picked up again now and the reduced pace caused by the Gulf situation gave us plenty of time to think of new ideas and future plans."

However much Lena and Khalil are able to expand their flourishing enterprise, one thing that worries the couple is the problem of others copying their ideas. "We are pushing for a copyright to protect handicrafts and designs because as yet there is no such law here," said the concerned Khalil, afraid that the hardwork and investment he and Lena had put into their project would be wasted if others in the business took their ideas.



Husband and wife tea-cosies (above). The loom stands idle (below) after a rug has just been completed.



Slippers made to match bathrobes and towels

Recovery effort under way to save Africa's heritage

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — African countries are in danger of losing their cultural heritage, archaeologists have warned. Museum collections across the continent are deteriorating because of an acute lack of funds for basic equipment and a shortage of trained museum curators and preservationists.

High humidity and insects have already taken their toll on some of the finest pieces, say experts. From Abidjan to Khartoum, and from Tunis to Lagos, masks, textiles and carvings have been eaten away by insects and mold. Human marauders have done the rest. Poor security and inadequate cataloguing in many museums have made life all too easy for Africa's growing army of art thieves. Now a Rome-based agency



An African ceremonial mask

has launched a salvage operation to rescue Africa's crumbling heritage. Conservation experts and archaeologists at the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) have

started a 10-year programme to improve training for museum staff members. 12 curators and researchers from all over Africa have been invited to ICCROM's headquarters in the Italian capital to take part in a 10-month course to learn how to store, catalogue, repair, treat and preserve their artifacts. ICCROM officials hope to train at least 100 museum employees in the programme, called Prevention in Museums of Africa (PREMA), by the end of the decade.

The Rome-based group will also send teams of experts to various nations to carry out a three-month, on-site training course and to help local museums organise their collections. An ICCROM team has already visited Ghana. Next on the list are the Ivory Coast and Zambia.

The man behind the project is Gael de Guichen, a 49-year-old French citizen who is assistant to ICCROM's director. A chemical engineer by training, De Guichen has made archaeology his specialty and has taught restoration and conservation techniques in Mali, Niger, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt as well as in Thailand, Pakistan and India.

At the ICCROM headquarters in Rome's picturesque Trastevere quarter, De Guichen and his team have long taught courses ranging from architectural conservation to the preservation of mural paintings. The African programme is a new departure to try to fill a specific and very pressing need, he said.

"In Africa there is simply no possibility to train in conservation and preservation," De Guichen explained. "For example, in the city of Jos, in Nigeria, there is a six-to-eight-month museum curator course which dedicates just one month to conservation. In Europe it takes four years. It's a bit like training to be a doctor in two months. Of course, these countries have so many other problems that they can't begin to think about organising courses at a national level."

Funding for the programme, \$700,000 annually, com-

es partly from the United Nations Economic and Social Council, to which ICCROM belongs. But the bulk of the cost is met by private donations from organisations such as the Getty Trust and the Ford Foundation and the governments of Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Scandinavia. De Guichen estimates that the 10-year project will cost \$8.5 million.

It is already too late for many museum collections. In Abidjan's National Museum insects have attacked a large proportion of the wooden artifacts. More than 2,000 have been completely destroyed, and many others badly damaged. In the Jos National Museum, termites reduced a pile of exhibits to yellow dust in just six days. Africa's extreme heat and the high humidity in some countries create the perfect conditions for insects and mold to multiply. Once they have infested a piece, say experts, there is no stopping them. "A museum is a concentration of risks," said De Guichen.

African museum collections are more vulnerable than those in other parts of the world because the African objects often are made of organic materials — wood, bark, feathers, horn and animal hair. "It's a race against time," said Friedrich Zink, ICCROM's technical officer and an expert in conserving and restoring objects in tropical climates. Before joining the Rome group earlier this year, German-born Zink spent four years in Kenya. "There the main problem was the heat and humidity which provided a good environment for insects, moths and termites," he said. "It's a tragedy to see these things being destroyed."

Zink and De Guichen took part in the most recent on-site training programme in Ghana. The ICCROM team spent three months with museum staff members, helping them create an environment that would preserve the pieces from the elements, from insects and from would-be thieves. "When we arrived it was just like walking into a storage room," said De

Guichen. "Everything was just stacked up on top of each other. We had to rearrange the whole building, make an armour-plated door, re-establish natural ventilation and close the exhibits off from sources of dust and insects."

Before he left Ghana, De Guichen invited the two best students in the training programme to attend the first 10-month course in Rome. Recently arrived in the Italian capital, Kwame Amoah Labi, 32, and Raymond Orison Agbo, 34, are the first to admit that their museums were badly in need of a facelift. "There had been a lot of neglect," said Labi, curator of the Institute of African Studies Museum at the University of Ghana. "A lot of the textiles had crumbled to bits — dresses, battle smocks and lincolns made out of beaten bark. Before, pieces that were brought into the museum were not treated, so

that if they were infected with silverfish or moths it soon spread through the whole collection."

"The training course has made a big difference," noted Agbo, keeper of the Ghana National Museum in Accra. "We still don't have a great deal of equipment, but it has sparked off quite a bit of interest and a new awareness. Since the course, many more museums have been opened and reorganised."

In other countries that have taken part in the project, curators have reported an encouraging reaction from officials in charge of the purse strings. In most African nations, museums have traditionally been a low-priority item, but in several cases governments have responded to the ICCROM initiative by raising salaries and increasing staff.

The awareness battle is one of the biggest issues faced by ICCROM, the team says.

Part of the problem stems from a fundamental difference in attitude toward art.

"In Europe, art is a piece that is created for its own beauty," said Zink. "In Africa, art is a functional piece — a mask for a religious ceremony, a chief's regalia, a smoking pipe or a container. These things will be highly decorated, and those decorations will have a symbolic meaning, but the reason they were made is to be used."

For the same reason, Zink added, it is hard to find much in the way of truly old pieces on the African continent. "If a carved item is more than 50 years old, you can be happy," he said. "Because these things are functional pieces they get worn out and when they are no longer useful they are thrown away."

If the African concept of art is different from that of the West, then its museums should also be different, argued Emmanuel Arinze,

director of the Nigerian Commission for Museums and Monuments. Museums are not popular in Africa. They are considered places for the intellectual elite. "A lot of people who would come to museums don't, because it doesn't mean anything to them," said Arinze, who has recently joined the Rome team as a teacher for the first PREMA course.

His ideal museum, he says, "would tell an African story that would have as its main focus African problems, using things on the continent so that average people from the rural areas would want to come in. There would be objects, but they would be used in a totally different way — not just that they are art, but that they have a function. The approaches that we have adopted in some of our museums are basically static. We need to talk to the people, send a message." — World News Link.



A carved wooden figure of a mother and child, from the Livingstone Museum, Zambia.



BEFORE: In an African museum, priceless artifacts were stockpiled in disorganised piles.



AFTER: With the help of an ICCROM team, this museum has organised, stored and catalogued its collection.

هذا من الصور

This is not how it should be

By Maha Addasi

Eating, drinking and being merry is not what Ramadan is all about, because Ramadan is a holy month when people fast so that they feel with the poor who can not afford to buy food, and make time for praying and reading the Holy Koran. Then when they break their fasting people should eat very lightly and usually from one type of food. Some people break their fast on one date (meaning fruit) then pray and come back and eat a light dish in moderation.

Of course, this is the ideal situation, because by eating little you have not defied the whole purpose of fasting.

So what is an "un-ideal" situation like, and how do many people spend Ramadan?

Many people divide a Ramadan day into three parts. The first being obviously the fasting part, then the breakfast part and then, inevitably, dessert. This is not how it should be.

During the fasting part, the women cook up a feast for breakfast, making every single meal they felt like eating in a life-time, in one day. While the men savour the odour of their wife's cooking as it drifts to the living room. So instead of reading the Holy Koran he is guessing at the ingredients that go into each dish. This is not how it should be.

Famished, the family sits at breakfast prepared to tackle the table. By the time the Muazzin declares sunset, they hear it as the "get ready, get set, go!" of a race starter. The kids ready to eat from everything start out doing just that, but after bite number four, they are back to their old habit of picking at their food. The wife attacks everything. The husband, wants to break his fast on a date. One date draws another, then another. (your basic domino effect), then another. So that a whole bunch of dates have been consumed and so that he is so full someone is stuck with the ordeal of carrying him to the praying rug to pray. This also is not how it should be.

When those who ate dates come back from praying they are still very full and can barely walk. Yet they manage to crawl back to the dining table to eat some more. This time they manage to turn the T.V. channels so they can watch a series while they eat making up for lost time. And of course thinking of the poor is long since forgotten.

You may think that by the third day of breaking the fast in such a manner people would learn to eat less during Ramadan. But how could they when there is dessert every night.

Of course the dessert session announces itself when the dessert presents itself before you while visiting someone, or while they are visiting you, and lasts until most of it is gone and everyone's stomachs are staring at the seams.



When it comes to Suhour, when people are preparing themselves for the next fasting day, they drink "only water," not because drinking water is the traditional Suhour, but because the stomachs have closed for the day leaving a sign saying "no more food, please."

It is no wonder that during Ramadan, blood pressures go berserk, digestion goes haywire and people don't ever think of the poor. And that is not how it should be!

To bring the facts closer to home, some 30 per cent of the Jordanian population are poverty stricken. This percentage includes 5 per cent or 150,000 people who live in absolute poverty and are unable to afford medical care, shelter and food (numbers from recent two-month study by United Nations Children's Funds-UNICEF).

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, April 11

1564 — Peace of Troyes ends war between England and France.

1677 — William of Orange is defeated at Cassel, Germany, by Duke of Orleans.

1689 — William and Mary are crowned king and queen of England.

1713 — Peace of Utrecht between France, Britain, Holland, Savoy, Portugal and Prussia; Spain cedes Gibraltar to England.

1805 — Britain and Russia, by Treaty of St. Petersburg, agree to form a European league for liberation of German states, the third coalition against France.

1814 — Napoleon Bonaparte abdicates unconditionally as emperor of France and is banished to Elba by Treaty of Fontainebleau.

1843 — Britain separates Gambia from Sierra Leone as Crown Colony.

1894 — Uganda is declared a British protectorate.

1899 — Philippine islands are transferred from Spain to United States.

1919 — Referendum in New Zealand declares against prohibition.

1951 — U.S. President Harry S. Truman relieves General Douglas MacArthur of his command in Far East.

1953 — United Nations Force and Communists arrange for exchange of prisoners in Korea; Vietnamese insurgents renew offensive in Laos.

1961 — Nigeria imposes total boycott on South African trade.

1973 — Martin Bormann, Nazi official pursued throughout world, is officially declared dead and taken off West Germany's "most wanted" list.

1987 — China's National People's Congress ends annual session after endorsing Premier Zhao Ziyang's centrist policies and removing nation's top security official.

1989 — Muslim rebels seal off Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad.

1990 — Angolan government agrees to begin peace talks with rebel group UNITA in Portugal.

Friday, April 12

1545 — France's King Francis I orders massacre of Valois Protestants.

1621 — French forces under King Louis XIII set out to crush Huguenot rebellion.

1654 — Ireland and Scotland are united with England.

1815 — Austria declares war on Joachim Murat, King of Naples, for occupying Rome.

1850 — French troops restore Pope Pius IX and occupy Rome.

1861 — U.S. Civil War starts as Confederates (South) take Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.

1945 — U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies at age 63, and Harry S. Truman is sworn in as his successor.

1957 — West German nuclear physicists refuse to cooperate in producing or testing of atomic weapons.

1961 — Soviet Union puts first man in space — Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin makes safe landing after one orbit of Earth.

1963 — First armed attack by Indonesian forces on Malaysia.

1966 — U.S. bombers carry out their first strikes against North Vietnam.

1975 — Cambodia's Premier Long Boret announces that military government is in charge in his country and will continue fighting Communists.

1986 — Commander of "Khalistan Commando Force" terrorists say his rebels are recruiting guerrilla army to battle Indian military for an independent Sikh nation in Punjab state.

1987 — Soviet media reports that two Cosmonauts walking in space successfully linked space module to their orbital space station Mir.

1989 — Relentless artillery battles rage between Christians and Muslims as Lebanon's civil war enters its 15th year.

1990 — East German parliament names Lothar de Maiziere as prime minister, supports swift reunification and recognise Polish border.

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1528 — Pope Clemente VII establishes commission to determine validity of King

Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon in England.

1534 — Sir Thomas More refuses to take oath to succession.

1589 — Britain's Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Norris undertake expedition of 150 ships and 18,000 men to Portugal.

1598 — France's King Henry VI signs Edict of Nantes, granting large measure of religious liberty to Protestant Huguenots.

1605 — Theodore II succeeds as Tsar of Russia on death of his father Boris Godunov.

1722 — Warren Hastings is appointed governor of Bengal in India.

1796 — French forces under Napoleon Bonaparte defeat Austrians at Millesimo in northern Italy.

1848 — Sicily is declared independent of Naples.

1868 — British forces under Robert Napier capture Magdala in Ethiopia.

1909 — Army counter-revolution in Constantinople against rule of Mohammedan Union.

1954 — Cheddi Jagan, former prime minister, is sentenced, and British Guiana becomes a "proclaimed area."

1961 — U.N. General Assembly condemns apartheid.

1975 — Fighting rages in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta as Communists press drive to take city of Xuan Loc; civil war breaks out in Lebanon.

1976 — Munitions plant explosion in Finland leaves 45 dead and 7 injured.

1986 — Stampede by Hindu pilgrims kills at least 46 people and injures 39 others at religious festival at banks Ganges River northeast of New Delhi, India.

1989 — Independent Solidarity trade union in Poland files for registration after seven-year ban.

1990 — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gives Lithuania until April 15 to withdraw its declaration of independence, threatening an economic embargo if it fails to do so.

1990 — Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis says Lithuania will not revoke its declaration of independence, despite Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's threat of an economic embargo.

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1544 — Denmark repudi-

ates its alliance with France.

1629 — Peace of Susa ends war between England and France.

1672 — Alliance is signed between France and Sweden against Dutch.

1834 — Republican uprising in France is crushed by army under Adolphe Thiers.

1849 — Hungarian Diet proclaims independence with Louis Kossuth as governor-president.

1865 — U.S. President Abraham Lincoln is shot by actor John Wilkes Booth at Ford Theatre in Washington, D.C., and dies following morning.

1890 — Delegates to Washington Conference Of American States create what is to become Pan American Union.

1912 — Liner Titanic strikes iceberg in North Atlantic, and more than 1,500 lives are lost when ship sinks.

1931 — King Alfonso flees in Spanish revolution, and Alcala Zamora becomes president of provisional government.

1945 — U.S. bombers pound Tokyo and Japan's imperial palace in World War II.

1970 — U.S. Apollo 13 spacecraft heads back to Earth after moon mission that was aborted because of mechanical problems.

1972 — Terrorists set off chain of explosions across northern Ireland, killing several people.

1977 — Soviet Union orders its fishing fleet to strictly observe new fishing regulations set by United States off its coasts.

1987 — Syrian troops deploy at outskirts of Lebanese port city of Sidon — farthest south they have been since Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

1988 — Soviet Union signs accord to end its intervention in Afghanistan and to allow Red Army to start troop withdrawal.

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JTV CHANNEL 2

WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 11

8:30 Day By Day

Great Expectations

Kate suddenly discovers that her son is doing well at school and decides that he should do better and tries to enforce a Spartan system on him.

9:10 The Black Forest Clinic

The Man With The Case

The hospital receives an old farmer patient. Quite an ordinary patient, except for one thing: he carried with him all his life savings in a small case and the case is with him all the time.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week

The Healers

Starring: John Forsythe and Pat Harrington

Dr. Robert, the hospital's chief doctor, is against using a new drug on his patients and the research team is all for it. When the head of the research team tries it on himself it surprises everyone.

Friday, April 12

8:30 Night Court

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News In English

10:20 Bergerac

Come Out Fighting

French champion-boxer Jack is getting ready to fight against Britain's champion Eddy. Jack is the villain and Eddy is the opposite and Bergerac sides with Eddy.

Saturday, April 13

8:30 No Job For A Lady

Questions, Questions

Gene is experiencing raising questions and issues in the House of Commons for the first time... and what a complicated matter it proves to be.

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

The War Wagon

Starring: John Wayne and Kirk Douglas

When Lomax steps into the scene, Ted Jackson who recently got out of jail wants to retrieve his ranch back from a gang of villains.

Sunday, April 14

8:30 Mother And Son

The Divorce

Arthur wants to divorce his wife and Liz discovers that her husband is having an affair with his nurse... you can imagine what complications lie ahead.

9:10 All Our Children

Beginning To Believe

This interesting documentary deals with how different children from different countries encounter, as

well as, respond to early religious upbringing.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

The Last Warrior

A lumber company moves in the neighbourhood with the obvious aim of cutting down trees. John Taylor, the Indian, strongly believes that this is wrong and naturally Ethan offers help.

Monday, April 15

8:30 Golden Girls

Sophie learns the true nature of her illness and both are unable to cope with the new circumstances. Finally, inspiration hits Blanche's way and she writes her first novel.

9:10 Inside Story

Millionaire John knows that Paula can help him purchase the paper which she does... in return for something.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

El Dorado

Starring: Robert Michum

A classic western that features two top stars and tells the story of two friends trying hard to help a drunken sheriff battle a gang of sober villains.

Tuesday, April 16

8:30 Charles In Charge

Seeing Is Believing

Charles gets stuck in the elevator with a blind woman, and he doesn't realise it. When he does, he chickens out from having an affair with her.

9:10 Costeau's Discovery Of The World

Marquesas Islands: Mountains From The Sea

As usual, Costeau sails to sea to discover for us new islands, and the scientific and social study of the islands and their inhabitants ensues.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Feature Film

Wednesday, April 17

8:30 After Henry

Lines of Communications

Lines of communications between Sara and her grandmother breaks down because of the latter's snooping around. Luckily the granddaughter is able to mend fences.

9:10 Our House

Different Habits

David and his sister Molly find hidden pictures of their father with another woman... and when they confront their mother about it, they are given lessons in life.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Love And Hate

Colin is convicted and sent to jail. He is still in jail and still denies the charge.

Mahmoud the imbecile

By E. Yaghi

Shadows of the deserted night cautiously tiptoed around the dimensions of the large Amman circle. Rough winds swept gnarled trees and bent them over further in an easterly direction while small bushes still rooted firmly in the hard ground held their positions. The gray cement and stone houses guarded the circle with shuttered windows and owners who had at last retreated to their beds, surrendered themselves to slumber.

Sidewalks kept immaculately clean from continuous efforts of the city's orange uniformed workers, resounded the lone footsteps of a man known as Mahmoud the imbecile. The silence of the night was broken by his voice which boomed out in a solo conversation. "You're all cattle! Whatever you receive, you squander. You'll never learn. How many times have you had the chance to improve yourselves, yet remain the same," he complained. His round body shambled along against the winds which flapped his loose jacket and coiled around his pant legs.

Whenever Mahmoud begged for bread, he was fed a meal. Whenever he asked for water, he was given yoghurt. At intervals, he was supplied with odd jobs to do by various merchants whose shops sat on or near the circle. He stomped the neighbourhoods now a beggar, now a captain, usually holding complete conversations on his own to invisible associates.

Curious folks often inquired, "where do you come from?" "I come from nowhere," or, "I come from everywhere," he would reply.

So he was known to be feeble minded and given odd jobs sweeping out stores and carrying sacks of goods here and there. His demands were simple and no one refused him. Feared by some, laughed at by others, he dwelt in a realm somewhere between reality and insanity. Voices from his heart or mind would speak to him and he would answer, striking up a conversation to himself wherever he was at the time.

During this particular night, some policemen who were unfamiliar with the circle and the surrounding neighbourhood, stopped Mahmoud as he shouted to himself. He was presumed to be a thief or a suspicious character. "Who are you?" They asked him. "My name is Mahmoud and I'm from Akl family. I live over there," he pointed, "under the stairway of my family."

The police questioned the Akl family about Mahmoud and were told, "No, he isn't a member of our family, but we feel sorry for him so we let him sleep under our stairs at night. He's an idiot you know and harms no one."

Mahmoud's incoherence and remoteness further convinced them that he was indeed an imbecile and better left alone. The policemen jumped back in their cars and sped away. Continuing his journey, Mahmoud prodded on. The night dew was fresh on his tongue and its moisture wetted his face. He stopped down to catch a flying paper and stuffed it into his black trash bag where he hoarded his cache of treasured rubbish, all the while, bickering with himself.

He didn't know why he was out in the middle of the night talking to himself. They had told him to come and their voices had guided him. They spoke to him from the gnarled trees and from shrubs. They spoke to him from distant winds. It was they who ordered him to gather precious flying papers and it was their invisible voices that told him to spring down into the deserted hut and light a fire where he burned his pile of stowed rubbish.

He stood watching the red flames shoot into the dark night. The fire danced in his eyes. A contented smile spread over his face. The voices taunting him from outside stopped and he was left with the voice whispering from his heart. "Put more fuel on the fire," it said. "There are discarded clothes and wood to burn lodged under some rocks."

So he dug for them with his hands and dirt from the soil crept in under his fingernails to join the other dirt already stored there. He stumbled over to the fire and threw his find on the flames, nearly smothering them. Black wisps of smoke rose in curled clouds and filled Mahmoud's nostrils and filtered into his nose and throat.

Satisfied, he sat on some rocks nearby as the fire gained strength and burned once again. He answered the voice in his heart and said, "I keep cleaning after these cattle who throw their rubbish in the streets and homes of ghosts. But they never listen. My work never finishes."

When the fire finally died, the imbecile sat confused. He scratched his head and looked at his toes peeping out at him from ragged shoes. He would wait for the voices to tell him what to do next. The chill of the night gnawed at his bones but he was unheeding. He looked up to the sky and found night was giving way to light. He inhaled deeply and let the air of the new dawn enter his lungs. He swallowed. The taste of the new day was fresh in his mouth and he smiled again.

But the voices returned and spoke to him, fighting, teasing and huffing him. Once more his voice rose in protest. "I swear by God that no one ever listens to me. I'm an important person. My work is endless, yet you keep bothering me. Go and disturb someone else for a change."

And he continued to speak to himself in a loud voice as the winds pushed and pulled at him and blew his hair in different directions. At length, after much hassle, he returned to his cold shelter under the stairs of the merchant Akl who kindly let him sleep there. He flung himself down on a worn blanket and slept like a baby until he would be awakened again by rustling voices which lived in his heart, mind, or grew out of the windblown trees and shrubs. Soon he would awake with pains of hunger grinding in his stomach. Then he would scrounge once more for food.

No one knows why or how Mahmoud degenerated into a mentally handicapped person. Some say that he wasn't always like this. At one time he had a good job, wore a suit and was respected by all. But somehow some kind of misfortune struck him that warped and destroyed his mind and now he lives at the mercy of others while his mind pulls him in different directions and he is confused, frustrated, without a home and tragically alone.

Perhaps, if you pass Mahmoud's circle in the deep of night when shadows tiptoe among the trees and winds whisper strange secrets, you will hear Mahmoud the imbecile fighting with his invisible voices locked in his own world completely out of touch with everyone and everything.

B.C.

Don't Eat Bread,

Please help me!

I am a compulsive

eater and I don't

know who to turn to.

Chabrol's Madame Bovary risks ruffling French feathers

By Michela Wrong

Reuter

PARIS — Adultery is usually a bankable theme for French cinema, and Claude Chabrol usually a bankable director. Both hit the screen in Paris this week in Chabrol's latest work, *Madame Bovary*, a 1990s version of Gustave Flaubert's much-filmed literary classic. Yet the project's success is far from assured. The popularity of the novel, which once actually landed Flaubert in court for "outraging public morals," is now a positive handicap for prospective directors, who risk being pilloried for distorting a national favourite. The knives are already being sharpened for Chabrol, whose movie starring russet-haired actress Isabelle Huppert drew capacity audiences

to matinee premieres in Paris.

The daily *Liberation's* critic found the film "laborious" and "frozen," while *Le Parisien's* expert said the big screen feature had a made-for-television look.

The problem, critics admitted, is that everyone has his own image of Emma Bovary — the frustrated country doctor's wife who poisons herself — and few want to see it tainted by a director's imaginings, even if that director is Chabrol.

Brimming with expectations to which modest origins in no way entitle her, her head full of romantic novels, young Emma makes the mistake of marrying a doltish country physician.

She swiftly realises her error. Bored to distraction in

the stifling town of Yonville, she takes a series of lovers and adopts the lavish lifestyle of a great lady.

Her debts become insurmountable. When she realises the lovers she has idealised will not save her from the trap closing in, she takes arsenic and dies in agony.

"I have remained faithful to Gustave," promises Chabrol, who confesses to being totally obsessed by the novel he discovered on the day he lost his virginity.

Maybe too faithful. Scene by scene, phrase by phrase, the maker of such masterpieces as *The Cousins* and *The Girlfriends* has meticulously, some would say slavishly, reproduced the story Flaubert sweated over for five years.

Afraid of straying from the

novel, rewritten laboriously by Flaubert in his search for a pure, apparently effortless style, Chabrol has failed to give the film a needed creative kick in the pants.

"Faced with his obsession, Chabrol seems paralysed," comments *Liberation*. "To each his own Emma," shrugs *Le Parisien*.

Flaubert poured his soul into his heroine, purging a hatred of the petit bourgeoisie, contempt for small-town society and exasperation with a semi-invalid existence in rural Normandy.

"*Madame Bovary, c'est moi*," (I am Madame Bovary) the author once said, acknowledging the identification.

The book was inspired by the local story of a young

doctor's wife who had committed suicide, suggested to Flaubert by a friend who disapproved of his romantic gushings and thought he needed a more realistic topic.

When the book was first published in serial form in 1856 the authorities were shocked by the frank account of female frustration and desires, calling Emma lascivious and depraved. Flaubert was put on trial.

But the author was not the only person to see himself mirrored in the heroine — women all over France had recognised their own dilemmas and the work swiftly became a bestseller.

"My poor Bovary no doubt suffers and weeps in 20 villages of France, at this very moment," said Flaubert, who was acquitted on charges of

affronting public morals.

The portrait of Emma was so accurate it gave rise to the term "bovarysme" — meaning romantic dissatisfaction, a longing to escape the banality of everyday existence.

Huppert, who specialises in portraying introverts driven to desperate acts, sees the tale in more feminist terms.

She believes the heroine has been unfairly dismissed by critics who fail to take into account the restrictions women endured in the 19th century.

"The term 'bovarysme' is used to define anyone who lives in a dream world, who suffers from melancholy," the 38-year-old actress said in a recent radio interview.

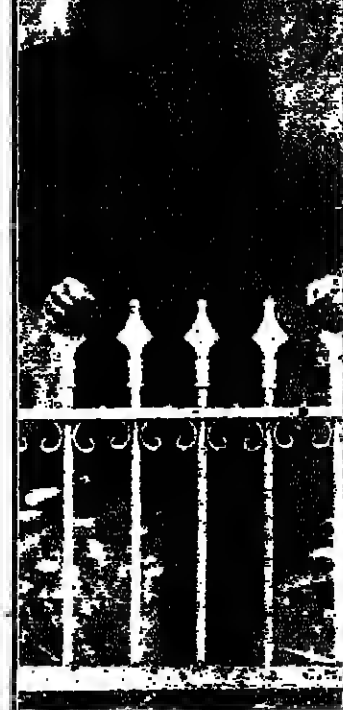
"But I found a different Madame Bovary, someone

braver than that, a fighter battling against a very rigid, very misogynist society which offered very little room for manoeuvre."

Huppert's portrayal, which includes a gruesome death-bed scene, is already being hailed as the "role of a career" for the actress, who sprang to international attention in *The Lacemaker*.

The French, enchanted by the recent award-winning adaptation of the classic *Cyrano De Bergerac*, starring Gerard Depardieu, have acquired something of a taste for filmed literature.

But unless audiences differ with the critics, Chabrol's 50-million-franc (\$8.8 million) project may go the same way as the eight other screen versions of *Bovary* made since the 1930s, all now virtually forgotten.



Isabelle Huppert

Victoria Principal combines business with acting

By Ronald Clarke

Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Actress Victoria Principal — Pam Ewing of the oil-and-sex television series *Dallas* — loves clinching a big deal in real life.

She has an acre of land in Beverly Hills, home of millionaires and Hollywood stars, and the latest Mercedes sports car to prove she knows how to do it.

"My career is a tug of war between my love for business and my love for acting," she said. "I am a full-time businesswoman and a full-time actress, and I love making a deal."

Victoria Principal Productions — "a very modest name," she says with a laugh — has become one of the most successful small production companies in the U.S. television industry.

She has produced and starred in half a dozen major television productions, including *Naked Lie*, *Blind Witness*, *Sparks* and *Just Life*, and is completing another of her productions, *Nightmare*.

"I find producing the projects in which I appear is double the duty and also double the pleasure," the slim, mini-skirted, 41-year-old actress said in an interview.

At a time when the industry is turning to smaller budget films, her company has recently taken on more staff including a number of big names.

"Money has never been my main goal," she said. "When there is a project I like, I must be a part of it. I want to act in it. I want to produce it."

"And then there is the joy of pitching it to the television networks. I think to myself: Here is this great idea and

they are going to love it," she said with a gurgling laugh.

Principal says she never lets business get in the way of her marriage to plastic surgeon Harry Glassman.

"From the beginning we agreed we would never go longer than three weeks without seeing each other. When I am on location, he flies out every other weekend," she said.

Principal received a good break at the start of her film career when she was given the part of a mistress alongside Paul Newman in *The Life And Times Of Judge Roy Bean* in 1971. The role changed her life.

"I was catapulted from anonymity to being known all over the United States in three months, and this is shocking to a young person," she said.

"I had no family or friends in Los Angeles and so there

was no one I could turn to reconcile my confusion about this."

Subsequent film roles were less memorable and Principal, the daughter of a sergeant major, gave up acting. She could always fall back on her old job — teaching backgammon.

She became an actors' agent and went to law school in the hope she could become a studio executive.

Then came *Dallas* in 1978. Principal, who has also used her business instincts to make a string of successful investments, was said to have negotiated a deal for \$25,000 an episode. By the fifth season, she had more than doubled her salary.

"I finally left *Dallas* because I wanted to grow as an actress and because I wanted to get my production company running," she said.

"I devoted myself to my

company for the next two years, working full time in the office, taking meetings and learning how to buy and develop projects.

"I have a good track record because of all the projects I developed only one has not been made."

She also wrote a keep fit book, *The Body Principal*, followed by *The Diet Principal* and *The Beauty Principal*.

Principal is a dedicated actress. For *Blind Witness* she attended the blind institute and had special lenses fitted so she could experience what it was like to be blind.

"I wore them from when I got up until just before I went to bed so I could understand what it was like to live in the dark," she said.

"I went on vacation with my husband during that time and I told him I would have to spend half of my time

blind. My husband is the best sport and it was very interesting for both of us."

"He was my eyes and when we were walking along a bluff he would describe the bluff and the people nearby. There was an intimacy that doesn't exist between two seeing people. And I had the luxury of being able to see the next day."

In *Nightmare*, she plays Linda Hammond, a mother whose house is accessed no other way home from a friend's house. Hammond decides she will stop at nothing to protect her daughter, even if it means taking the law into her own hands.

"I did not have to do research on my role because I am a stepmother with two children and all I had to imagine was one of them being harmed," Principal said.



Victoria Principal

Oscar-winning film shines attention on Sioux Indians

KANSAS CITY (Agencies) — Perhaps the biggest winner at the Academy Awards wasn't Kevin Costner's epic western *Dances With Wolves*, but the American Indians depicted in the film.

"This is probably going to have a huge impact on the Sioux people," said Tim Giago, publisher of the *Lakota Times*, based in Rapid City, South Dakota, where many Sioux live.

The most common view of Sioux Indians, who make up most of the population on the six huge reservations in South Dakota, is that of a people lost in poverty, unemployment and alcohol, and unable to emerge from underneath a blanket of federal handouts.

Statistics back up the stark realities of life on the reservations, but Giago and other Sioux leaders say something like *Dances* helps people get beyond their surface understanding of American Indians.

The movie, which swept the Awards by winning seven of 12 Oscars for which it was nominated, including Best Picture, portrayed a white soldier living among the Lakota Sioux tribe during the period just after the American Civil War and at the start of what became known as the Indian Wars.

"We're certainly going to encourage people to come visit the reservations," Ralph Moran, tribal chairman for the Rosebud Indian Reservation, said.

"It was a very positive movie and we hope it has an impact on the reservation in terms of tourism. You know the state is certainly going to try and cash in on it."

Rosebud also is the home of Doris Leader Charge, who translated Michael Blake's

acceptance speech into Lakota during the award ceremonies. Blake won the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay, based on his novel *Dances With Wolves*.

Cosiner, who directed, starred and co-produced the film, opted to use the native Lakota language of western Sioux tribes with English subtitles — a move that proved popular with moviegoers and Sioux leaders.

Before the success of the film, international attention had been focused on the Sioux Indians following the December centennial observance of the Wounded Knee Massacre, which culminated a year that South Dakota Governor George Mickelson had called the "year of reconciliation."

The National Park Service is looking into establishing either a national memorial or monument for the more than 200 Sioux Indians cut down a century ago by U.S. troops. Last month, the United States tribes met to begin working out tribal differences on the issue of returning land in the Black Hills originally promised to the Sioux in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty.

The U.S. Supreme Court awarded money, now in a trust totalling \$253.6 million, for reparations. However, the tribe has been split for many years on whether to take the money or press for land in the Black Hills.

Senator Bill Bradley, a Democrat of New Jersey, presented a bill in 1988 that would return federal land in the Black Hills to the tribe, but the bill has been stalled in committee.

There has been talk that the bill will resurface soon. "Right now we're in

vogue, and we should show people what we are about — let them know about the good and the bad," Giago said.

"For once, there's something good. I'm sick and tired of the eastern (east cost) media coming here and going away to win awards with the same stories about alcohol and poverty on the reservation."

Giago, who grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwest South Dakota, is currently a Neiman Fellow at Harvard University and is among the nominees for this year's Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

"I predicted that if they followed the script, it would be successful," he said.

"When I walked out of that movie, I had a big lump in my throat. I looked around and a lot of white people had a sad look on their faces too," said Alex White Plume, a member of Oglala Sioux Executive Committee. "Side by side, I couldn't believe it when they walked out like that."

The film shows Indians as people protecting their land rather than as savages, they say.

"I think it portrays the Indians the way it should. In other western movies, they portrayed the Indians as the bad guys, as scary people," said Nathan Chasing His Horse, 15, who played a young Sioux named Smiles A Lot in the film.

"We were just people trying to live our lives. ... We were nice and kind people," said Nathan, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe whose family lives outside the town of White River, South Dakota.

By Katia Sabat

CAIRO — He was a poor French boy, but he had a dream. He loved painting and the movies, but he also had to support himself. So Rene Laloux found a job in a psychiatric hospital and proceeded to set up painting, music and theatre workshops for the patients. In this unlikely setting he began a meteoric career that took him to the heights of fame and transformed the world of French cartoon movies.

Six years after he started work at the hospital, Laloux won the special Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for a cartoon film he had made with his patients. The success of "La Planete Sauvage" (The Wild Planet) projected the young filmmaker into the magic world of animated characters and the comic strip.

In 1967, a year bubbling with creativity and new ideas, Laloux met Rene Folon, the French master of satirical drawing. He also began a long collaboration with Roland Topor, another creative giant who had just joined a new popular satirical magazine called *Harakiri*.

Together the two artists made two short films, "Les Temps Morts" (Empty Times) and "Les Escargots" (Snails). The works broke new ground both in content and graphics style and pioneered a new era in French cartoon art.

Cartoons have enjoyed a huge revival in Europe during the past 10 years, with France and Belgium in the lead. A whole host of new books, whose characters have become household names, is celebrated at an annual book festival in the western city of Angoulême. Very little of the material is aimed at children, and fans of the "B.D." (short

for bande dessinée — comic strip) consider the genre a new form of art.

Explains filmmaker Laloux, who was interviewed during a recent visit to Egypt: "We had our marching orders, so to speak. These were not cartoons, they were not for children and they were not comedy. We wanted to do something different, something fantastic, lyrical, poetic, provocative ... I was interested in sophisticated graphics and talented artists. I loved to work with artists in the same way as I had worked with the patients at the psychiatric hospital. I try to bring out their hidden talent."

Laloux admits that it wasn't hard to draw out the talent of a master like Topor, but transforming drawings into moving images is another matter. "The drawings have to be put into a dramatic context, they have to be brought to life, they must be given a rhythm and a pace in the narrative," he adds.

Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Tom and Jerry and all the other stars of the cartoon world are like the cast of a movie. They are the product of a lengthy creative process, which, like in an ordinary feature film, is controlled by the director. "The director is the boss. On the artistic level there is no democracy, and the work is the same for a cartoon as a real movie with actors. There are sets, music, dialogue, mixing, editing ... technically, it boils down to the same thing," says Laloux.

He is currently writing a book about the art he knows best because, he says, no one has done it before. "In my opinion the art of the cartoon is far richer, more inventive and grown-up than the art of making a film with actors. The whole phenomenon by

which the spectator identifies with the star of the screen is what makes the cinema magic, but at the same time it is a pretty simple equation. The cartoon is abstract, ideas are being projected on the screen that have no direct reference to the public," he explains.

Creators of cartoon films, therefore, must find a way to make sure that the audience can relate to the subject. The film has to carry a message. At the same time, Laloux notes, most of the movie moguls think of cartoons as kid stuff. "Most adults see children as having very limited minds that cannot receive too many messages and need simple thoughts. This is a very conformist and conventional vision of the child. To me, children are an ideal audience because the potential of their imagination is far greater than that of adults," he argues.

According to Laloux, his work at the psychiatric hospital gave him an insight into how the mind works as we age. His conclusion: "Adults are alienated and unhappy most of the time. Some of us escape that fate," he adds, laughing, "but in general the adult spectator has a lazy, disappointing mind."

Laloux is convinced that children need stimulating images to help them fulfill their creative potential as adults. He recalls with delight an occasion when his films were shown to an audience of 5- and 6-year-olds. "It was the most rewarding experience I have ever had. What an audience! They are very imaginative and critical at the same time." Laloux sees the cartoon as a potentially powerful educational tool, an idea currently explored by French educators. Meanwhile, he is planning an hour-long adaptation of the 18th cen-



Rene Laloux

tury fairy tale *The Beauty And The Beast*. He does not seem worried that the Disney Studio, with its considerable resources, is filming a version of the same story due out in about three years. "Mine will be made with little money, but it will come out in a year," Laloux says.

Other projects include a television series he is making with artist Jacques Colombat. "The theme is a little surrealist, and 'green.' Earth is nothing more than a huge garbage can, and man leaves to find somewhere else to live. Objects and animals are left

alone, and they seize power." The filmmaker predicts that other art forms related to the cartoon are likely to develop further, particularly puppet shows such as the wildly popular TV Muppets. "One development we don't think about enough is that television calls for three-dimensional characters. I think this trend is going to grow, and soon. Another probable trend is the use of real actors dressed up to look like fantastic, incredible beings." Incredible? Nothing is in Laloux's world — World News Link.

Salt link to hypertension stronger than suspected

LONDON (AP) — Salt has a greater link to high blood pressure than previous studies have indicated, and even those not at risk should cut their salt intake by about one-third, researchers say in the British medical journal.

Researchers surveyed 78 studies involving 47,000 people to make the connection, which had been disputed in a number of recent studies.

Every study that discounted the benefits of a low-salt diet lasted less than five weeks, which was not enough time, said Dr. Malcolm Law, who directed the review.

Some studies were faulted for failing to account for numerous variables or for using the wrong method to determine salt intake, said Law, of the Department of Environmental and Preventive Medicine at University of London's St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College.

"The bottom is that everyone, even if their doctor didn't tell them they were at high risk for heart disease, should reduce the amount of salt in their diets by at least 3 grammes (half a teaspoon) a day," Law said in an interview.

For a typical American adult, that would mean cutting intake by a third — from 10 to 7 grammes a day.

In people over 50, he said that reduction would bring down blood pressure by about five millimetres of mercury in healthy people and by seven millimetres in hypertensive people.

Hypertension, or persistently high blood pressure, has been associated with an increased risk of stroke and heart attacks. About 32 mil-

lion people in the United States are hypertensive.

The upper limit for normal blood pressure is considered about 140 millimetres of mercury systolic and 90 millimetres of mercury diastolic, more frequently expressed as "140 over 90."

Blood pressure, measured in millimetres of mercury, reflects the force of the blood on the walls of the heart. Systolic pressure, typically the top number of the reading, is the maximum pressure at the end of the heart's forceful squeeze. Diastolic pressure is the minimum, when the heart muscles relax to allow blood to flow in.

Law said low-salt diets would save one in five people from strokes, one in six from heart disease, and one in two from needing anti-hypertensive drugs. That works out to about 250,000 fewer deaths a year in the United States, he added.

Dr. Graham Colditz of Harvard Medical School said the British researchers "present a persuasive argument" about the dangers of salt. However, Colditz said in a telephone interview, he is skeptical about Law's extrapolation of the reduction in deaths.

Men typically eat about 10 grammes of salt daily, and women eat eight grammes daily, Law said.

Too much salt is hidden in canned foods, breads and other processed food, he said. If the food industry would lighten up on the salt shaker, people could reduce their blood pressure without cutting out cheese or ice cream, or sacrificing other favourite foods, he said.

Abortion in Brazil — frequent and often deadly

By Todd Lewan
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Brazil, the world's largest Roman Catholic country, contains 3 per cent of the planet's people, but accounts for 10 per cent of its abortions, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says. Many of them are deadly.

Of the approximately 1 million abortions performed yearly in the country, about 10,000 are fatal, said Dr. Luis Eduardo Vaz Miranda, president of the Brazilian Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics Society. Another 200,000 women are hospitalised because of complications from abortions, he said.

Birth control is a subject of controversy in Brazil and abortion is illegal except in rape cases or when pregnancy threatens a woman's life.

Pregnant women are commonly fired from their jobs or face discrimination if they are able to continue working.

Birth control was legalised only in the 1989 constitution and little information is avail-

able about it. Contraceptives usually are available only at private drug stores, not in state health clinics.

One result is ignorance that leads to desperation, as in the case of Alexandra, a 16-year-old street girl.

When Alexandra discovered she was going to have a baby in six months, she asked three friends to beat it out of her. They did, one summer night on a Rio street corner, with their feet and a broom handle.

Alexandra passed out on the sidewalk and began hemorrhaging.

An ambulance rushed her to a hospital. She nearly died, but the bleeding stopped and she was back on the streets a week later, begging and engaging in prostitution.

"I hate what I did," Alexandra said, tears coursing down her cheeks as she and two friends told the story. "But I couldn't bring my baby into the world to suffer."

Doctors and feminists say that even in cases of rape, it is

almost impossible to obtain a legal abortion because police reports, a judge's authorisation and a report from a state medical office are required.

"The system is designed to make getting an abortion impossible," said Dr. Helio Ludwig Pereira, a leading Rio pediatrician.

Illegal abortion is a thriving business, and for the wealthy can be quick and safe. Private doctors perform abortions at clandestine clinics on the tree-lined streets of Rio's affluent south zone.

Things are much different for millions of impoverished women in Brazil. Many attempt abortions by themselves, with knitting needles, clothes hangers or the stem of a castor plant.

Midwives, witch doctors and free-lance medics in rural areas may charge \$300 — nearly three months' income for half the population — for a procedure that involves inserting a plastic tube into the cervix to create an infection and induce an abortion.

"It's doubly unfair," said

Ana Filgueiras, director of the organisation SOS Child and Adolescents. "Poor women pay three times more and run obscene health risks."

Women in outlying areas often have no access to contraceptives, and those who do find the cost prohibitively high.

"Three condoms cost 600 cruzeiros (\$3)," said Claudia, 18, who has lived in the streets of Rio's impoverished north zone for four years. "I can eat lunch for that."

Latin America's "machismo" tradition also impedes birth control. Many men see offspring as a measure of their masculinity, and discourage their wives from using contraceptives for fear they will take other sexual partners.

Hundreds of thousands of abandoned girls who survive on Brazil's streets as beggars or prostitutes are especially vulnerable.

Generally, street girls are too frightened to talk about abortion, but several reluc-

tantly agreed to meet with a reporter if a female social worker they trusted was present.

The meeting took place at night, under a chestnut tree on the edge of Copacabana beach, with a dozen children sleeping on slabs of cardboard nearby.

Adriana de Albuquerque Viana, a 14-year-old veteran of four years on the streets, spoke softly of her first pregnancy.

"My stomach started to fill up," said the dark, bony girl dressed in sandals, a black T-shirt and Bermuda shorts. "A friend said a demon was inside me. I was desperate."

She sought out a "Curandeiro," or witch doctor, in a hilltop slum.

In a playwood shack, she drank half a cup of brew containing cocaine, rum, marijuana, black beans and herbs. She lay down. The witch doctor rubbed more of it on her toes and chanted.

"In a few minutes, it dropped out of me," she said. "I felt a great pain and I started

bleeding. The Curandeiro told me I needed to take rose tea."

Adriana gulped down the tea, made from the petals of white roses, which is used for spiritual healing in Afro-Brazilian spirit religions. The bleeding soon slowed, then stopped, she said.

Her friend Vania da Silva Moreira, an unwed mother of two at 21, nodded.

"I tried to do the same with my Fabiana," she said, rocking her 2-month-old daughter in her arms. "But it didn't work."

But several days later, the street girls reported that Fabiana had died, seemingly of heart failure.

"She was always weakly," said one of the girls.

Jacqueline Hins de Oliveira, a volunteer at SOS Adolescents, listened to the stories and confirmed the methods.

"These girls don't even know they're pregnant," she said. "How would they know how to get a safe abortion?"

Caffeine response helps doctors pick right dose of chemotherapy

PHOENIX (AP) — Doctors have said they have found a way to figure out the safest and most effective dose of chemotherapy to treat cancer — by measuring the body's response to the caffeine in a cup of coffee.

So far, the new technique works for only one experimental cancer medicine, but scientists are looking for similar tests that will help them tailor treatment more precisely.

The goal is to allow physicians to give people enough cancer medicine to destroy their tumours without triggering life-threatening side effects.

Dr. Mark J. Ratain of the

University of Chicago described his findings with the coffee test at a meeting of the American Cancer Society.

In other presentations at the meeting, doctors described preliminary results with two new weapons against cancer. One combines a poison with a normal protein to target cancer cells. The other combines antibodies with radioactive isotopes.

The coffee test will allow doctors to pick the best dose of Amnolide, a promising experimental medicine that is being studied for use against cancer of the breast, uterus and prostate.

Currently, doctors pick

doses of chemotherapy based on the patient's height and weight. However, there are great differences in how people respond to Amnolide, as there are to many other drugs. A dose that causes no side effects for one person may kill another.

Amnolide is broken down in the body through a process known as acetylation. People who are fast acetylators produce high levels of a substance called N-Acetyl-Amnolide, which is highly toxic.

Therefore, people who are slow acetylators should receive higher doses, and those who are fast acetylators should get less. But until recently, there was no way to

figure this out in advance.

Caffeine, the chemical that gives coffee its kick, is acetylated the same way as Amnolide. So by using urine analysis that measures how quickly people break down the caffeine in a cup of coffee or a can of caffeinated cola, doctors can estimate how their bodies will respond to the cancer drug.

In testing on 18 cancer patients, Ratain found that 11 were slow acetylators and seven were rapid acetylators. All were given standard doses of the drug. None of the slow acetylators had serious side effects, but three of the fast acetylators had life-threatening reactions.

On other subjects, Dr. C. Frederick Lemaistre of the University of Texas at San Antonio outlined the use of a natural human protein that has been welded to a poison through genetic engineering.

Unlike most healthy tissue, some cancer cells are highly responsive to a natural substance called Interleukin 2, or IL-2. So doctors combined the gene that makes human IL-2 with the gene that makes diphtheria toxin.

This test-tube gene makes a protein that will zero in on cancer cells that take in IL-2, and carry a lethal dose of poison into the cells.

"It's a smart bomb," said Lemaistre. "It can guide the

toxin to the cancer cell."

In the other new technique, doctors combined tumour-hunting antibodies with radioactive isotopes. Dr. Oliver W. Press of the University of Washington has used this approach to treat 28 people with advanced non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

His team found that those with more than 2 pounds (1 kilogram) of cancer in their bodies were unlikely to respond, so they were able to test the approach on 11 of 28 patients who were selected for the study. Of these, nine had complete initial remissions, and four have remained cancer free for periods up to 2½ years.

Weekend Crossword

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Olive Dunn

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72 Cottage plant	98 Border lake
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79 Apple variety	105 Apple variety
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96 Apple variety	122 Apple variety
97 Apple variety	123 Apple variety

1. Little parrot eyes happy sparrow who is eating glowworms on warm lawn.
2. Should your faith falter, lean back and reflect upon the misty rainbow — an awesomely painted bay window in the sky.
3. Made me think of like parabolas — they only function if open.
4. At last slumber creeps up on me as I succumb to rest.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. BRZD ZWAY XWCSUD STAEUSZ OSL
PLEEZ RALETT OSRACHD ULRESHSZ
OCMONRD, XWATCEM PRAY RU OELK
PHENSLT. —By Lois E. Jones

2. IRIK XVS ZOI QSRIZAV AVLWA, WTXI ESK
AIIC ZV QI CVAZ LKOSVTE. —By Gordon Miller

3. SINENC UL XBINO XDCK YULKY EL
CDIOEKY EXOETIC DO BDTLECK
NECODINDLO. —By Ed Huddleston

4. TXAPZ AN TASTIE LURE ZWNXU "LIK ZU
A PFSRU TWNWO TROCK TQOU." —By Frank N. Stein

SOLUTIONS OF
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Human egg might aid fertilisation with homing signal

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Human eggs may help themselves get fertilised by sending out a homing signal for sperm, suggests a study that might lead to new approaches to fertility treatment and contraception.

Scientists found evidence that some eggs emit a substance that attracts sperm, and that these eggs were far more likely to be fertilised.

Researchers have not identified or isolated any attractive substance, nor determined its origin, cautioned study co-author David Garbers.

But if an attractant can be found and purified, it might lead to treatment for some infertile women, he said.

And a new contraceptive

approach may develop if another substance can be found to block its effect, he said. A blocking substance that acts directly on sperm might even lead to a male contraceptive pill, he said.

Garbers is a pharmacology professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas and an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute there.

The work was done at the Vanderbilt University Medical Centre in Nashville when Garbers was there. Garbers and co-authors present the work in the April issue of the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"This is very early and obviously requires a lot of additional work, but as a first step I think it's quite attrac-

tive," commented Dr. Norbert Gleicher, president of the Centre for Human Reproduction in Chicago.

The research focused on follicular fluid, which is found in the saclike follicle along with the egg. At ovulation, the follicle releases the egg and fluid.

The fluid comes from several sources, Garbers said in a telephone interview. But since it bathes the eggs in the follicle, researchers decided to look at it for evidence of some sperm-attracting substance from the egg. Such a substance had previously been found in sea urchins.

The researchers used follicular fluid from women who were having eggs removed for test-tube fertilisation, and took sperm from two fertile men.

They poured some sperm into thimble-sized chambers, covered the sperm with a filter, and then poured in either follicular fluid or a standard laboratory chemical. After 10 to 15 minutes, they removed the material above the filter and looked to see how much sperm had swum into it.

In tests involving more than 100 samples, the follicular fluids consistently accumulated more sperm than the laboratory substance did, suggesting the fluids contained some sort of attractant.

But only half the follicular fluids showed the attraction.

The fluid's attractability varied from follicle to follicle within the same woman, researchers found.

Regular Aspirin use may protect against bowel cancers

By Irwin Arieff
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Regular use of Aspirin, which already has been found to protect against heart attacks and some strokes, also may significantly lower the risk of bowel cancer, researchers have reported in a new study.

Aspirin and Aspirin substitutes are classified among the NSAIDs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, a fancy name for a category of common painkillers and inflammation-fighting drugs.

In the present study, the

risk of large-bowel cancer appeared approximately halved among persons who had recently used NSAIDs regularly (and) almost all NSAID used was of Aspirin."

The research scientists said in the current issue of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

A research team led by Dr. Lynn Rosenberg of the Boston University School of Medicine in Brookline, Massachusetts, studied 1,326 patients with colon or rectal cancer and compared their intake of NSAIDs and various other drugs to 1,011

patients with other cancers and 3,880 cancer-free patients.

They said their research "suggests" that regular use of Aspirin reduces the incidence of colon and rectal cancers in both men and women and in subjects older and younger than 60 years of age.

They said no protective effect was apparent if the Aspirin was taken irregularly or if regular use was discontinued for at least a year.

But they said a single study could not rule out a statistical glitch based on chance and they called for additional stu-

dies to either prove or disprove the link between the cancer incidence and regular Aspirin use.

The researchers said the protective effect may be due to Aspirin's effect on prostaglandins, a class of chemicals made commonly by the body. Aspirin and other NSAIDs are known to inhibit the body's production of prostaglandins, which may also play a role in tumour development.

They said a similar protective effect was found in studies of laboratory animals given NSAIDs.

Freedom's deadline

By Kathy Evans

AS ALLIED tanks rolled into Kuwait City on Feb. 26, three local journalists sprang into action to record the historic day. The results of their overnight efforts on a borrowed photocopying machine were on the streets next day. It marked the first paper published in Kuwait — and probably the Arab World — without a government licence.

Named after liberation day, the first few editions of the "26th February" were little more than underground pamphlets. Within two weeks, the paper had blossomed into a tabloid size, printed on the sole remaining press in Kuwait. The rest had been stolen or trashed during the seven-month occupation by the Iraqi army.

Lauded by Western diplomats in the city as a sign of the ruling Sabah family's commitment to democracy and free speech, it was closed in its third week by the Kuwaiti information ministry. The official reason was that 26th February did not have the all-important licence. The paper's closure followed an editorial calling for the government to resign — and was one of the last actions of the outgoing government.

The enterprise shown by three journalists on liberation day was testimony to the vigour which has always marked Kuwait's press. Blessed by a limited form of democracy, and a fabulously wealthy economy, Kuwait's media was fat and powerful in its heyday of the early eighties. The two million population supported five Arabic and two English dailies and a host of weekly magazines.

Each had its own political profile: Al Qabas was said to support the views of powerful merchant families who were its backers; Al Watan, its rival, took a more liberal line and often aired opposition views; Al Siyassah was conservative and close to the crown prince; Al Anba had become virtually a semi-official paper.

What these dailies said and reported counted in the Arab World. They had the money to employ the best columnists and cartoonists. Their correspondents and editors were often seen with kings and presidents, sporting silk suits and fat cigars, a royalty of their own amongst Arab newsmen.

That heyday came to an end in 1986 when the Kuwaiti government imposed censorship on its national press. When Saddam invaded, the press was emerging from four long years of restraint, and edging towards its once dominant role.

Apart from that spirit shown by the journalists of 26th February, Kuwait's press now looks to be in its death throes. Iraqi troops destroyed all its assets. Every building in Shuweikh, Kuwait's equivalent of Fleet Street, was emptied. The country's leading paper, Al Qabas, had its press machines bailed away to Baghdad. Replacing them will cost millions of dollars and take years to deliver, say its executives.

Al Qabas's chief editor, Mohammad Al Sager, is the first news executive to return to the devastated country. He faces the task of putting his newspaper back together with no press, a third of his staff, no computers, archives or even desks. Last week, he called his first staff meeting, called more or less to see who was alive and still in Kuwait. All around them, in what was once the main newsroom, copies of the Iraqi occupation paper, Al Nida (The Call) littered the floor. Every edition carried a portrait of Saddam on its front page.

Mohammad Al Sager describes his reaction on returning. "I cried, I didn't cry when Kuwait was invaded, but I wept when I came to the paper."

Perhaps most painful was the discovery that Iraqi agents worked on the paper. A stringer with good contacts proved to be an Iraqi intelligence agent. So did a trainee who joined the paper two months before the invasion. Both emerged as senior editorial managers during the occupation, under a chief editor who had been the Iraqi embassy press attache.

At 4 a.m. on the night of Aug. 2, Al Sager, on holiday in Switzerland, ordered the paper to close and the staff to go home. The Iraqis entered the building two hours later. With their sleepers agents inside the paper, they went to the homes of journalists and print shop workers and ordered them back to work at gunpoint. Over the next few months, many of the Al Qabas staff managed to escape Kuwait, and the Iraqis had to put out the paper themselves. Only seven of the 520 original staff members collaborated, says the editor.

But Al Qabas also had its London bureau hijacked by its own government. Its merchant family owners are reluctant to talk about it but Kuwaiti journalists say the government asked them to print a government newspaper using the name of Al Qabas in the name of "national unity" at a time of crisis. The owners agreed. After two months it became apparent, however, that the paper's independence had gone out the window. State-

ments by the opposition, by now active in exile, were not being carried. Mohammad Al Sager refused to cooperate. With its credentials undermined, and permission from the merchant families withdrawn, another paper, Sawt Al Kuwait (Voice of Kuwait), this time totally funded and managed by the Kuwait government.

There were other developments. Papers known to be more supportive of the government received subsidies to set up in exile, printing in Cairo and Riyadh. Al Qabas and Al Watan, which carried opposition views as well as government news, got no help.

The outgoing government had plans to transform Sawt Al Kuwait into a semi-official paper on the same lines as Saudi Arabia's Al Shariq Al Awsat. The Saudi paper is attractive to readers, well endowed with syndicated services and everything money can buy in terms of news services. But it is remarkably short on coverage of local affairs. Kuwaiti journalists fear that the government may be trying to "Saudiise" the Kuwaiti press.

Faisal Marzouk, a former chief editor of Al Anba, believes many of Kuwait's papers will not survive Saddam's occupation. "Who will want to advertise in Kuwait now?" he asks. "Our readers have fled and their return will depend on government policy of foreigners. Our technicians have also gone." He believes Kuwait will have a leaner, less varied press.

Much will depend on the fabulously rich merchant families in Kuwait who are the papers' backers. Many may decide there are more profitable ways to spend their money in the period of reconstruction.

Their views will depend on the outcome of the debate on the future style of democracy. If any returns to the country, if criticism of the government of the Sabah proves to be unprofitable for one's business, they, like newspaper owners the world over, may back off.

The experience of 26th February does not look encouraging. Freedom, Mohammad Al Sager points out, is not something you can switch on and off. "If the Kuwait press is going to go the way of the Saudi Arabia, we don't want it. All the advanced technology in the world won't make a good newspaper," Kuwaiti journalists point out that the alternatives — underground papers and pamphleteering — are much more dangerous for the government — The Guardian.

The threat to the West's oil supplies

By Melvin A. Conant

IN THE past several decades, there has been increasing evidence of a widespread Islamic revival extending from the North African shores on the Atlantic eastward to encompass the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and Indonesia. While much of the Islamic reawakening is found among Arab people, it includes as well Turks, Persians, and the Muslim community of India (some 85 million, the fourth largest in the world); it also extends through much of the southern republics of the Soviet Union.

It is an astonishing phenomenon because of the rate at which the Islamic renaissance is occurring over such a large area. It has its ramifications into Europe, in the growing number of Muslim labourers from North Africa and Turkey. There is every reason to think it is no superficial manifestation, for the Islamic revival is already having effects on Muslim societies and governments, on their goals and foreign policies. After all, there are over 650 million followers of Islam.

Many of the world's Muslims live in a region which has an enormous share of the world's oil reserves: nearly 800 billion barrels, 80 per cent of the world total. This observation alone would hold the attention of the oil-importing nations, whose continuing concern has to be adequate and continuous supply at what they consider reasonable prices. Their attention reflects the fact that now and for many years ahead, oil from the Middle East will continue to provide over 75 per cent of the barrels put into international trade. Gulf producers will become even more consequential. Oil importers' concern is no longer for oil assets but for dependable supply.

There is increasing speculation among industrial nations dependent on oil imports as to how the Islamic revival may come to affect oil supplies, although none

of the oil-rich countries has aspired as yet to Islamic leadership, with the notable exception of Iran. Their concern focuses on what may come to be a mix of Islamic fervour plus oil and how regional politics may be affected. At this time, the likely target of such a combination is the United States, as the foremost cultural challenge to Islam, and the foremost political and military power of the West, with large forces certain to remain "offshore" in the Gulf.

Causes of discontent

Some of the impetus for an Islamic revival lies in the recollections that, for many years, Muslims had ruled over an area almost as great as the one in which they live today, with an unparalleled richness of culture and of society. When that recollection is compared to their circumstances today, one can discover several major causes for the reawakening, chiefly in the frustrations Muslims experience in their everyday life. Most are in degrees of economic despair, with rising unemployment, increasing urbanisation with woefully inadequate social services, and incompetent and corrupt government bureaucracies.

With these disaffection, Muslims ask why they have still not been able to assert themselves against the overwhelming capabilities of the West? Why have they not found the resources and the abilities to advance their own interests against the Western impact and presence in their local and national affairs? How is it conceivable that after all these years there has been no victory over Israel, no nation of Palestine? Why is it that the defeat of Iraq could happen only because of Western — mainly U.S. — forces?

Why is it that in spite of the brotherhood of Islam, there has not yet been an Arab Nation state? Why is it that affairs do not improve? And with whom does the fault lie? What is to be done

and how? Hence, the rise of Islamic principles which promise people a way in which to "find themselves." And, for those who look around for the means to recoup their strength, there is oil and the wealth it brings to some. With the exception of Iran, whose population is some 55 million, no other state in the region with a large population has oil wealth. All of the Gulf producers, for example, are oil-rich with comparatively small populations. Given the economic plight of other Arab states, this evident disparity between oil "haves" and "have-nots" is one of the most important causes of instability and renewed interest in Islamic fundamentalism.

Sharing oil wealth

There are two ways oil wealth can be redistributed: seizure of the reserves of some nation's oil or the sharing of oil wealth. The first is less likely with the U.S. and others, including Arab contingents, showing remarkable success in the retaking of Kuwait after Iraq's invasion. Saddam Hussein has called for the sharing of oil wealth among poorer Arabs (and getting rid of arabs, corrupt regimes sitting on vast oil riches), although Iraq had never itself been generous in this respect.

The sharing of oil wealth — for purposes of economic and social development — could come, but probably only if those with the oil believe it is in their own interest to do so. It still seems an improbable, if not impossible course of action, if it were seen to be in countries' own interest to fund generously and continuously a regional development institution. But without such a process, the other recourse is to dole money out to friends, or in hopes of buying friendship, or do nothing with oil wealth but use it, or board it, as before.

Everything could continue unchanged but this seems unlikely. With so much frustration mixed

with questions as to why the continuing sense of inferiority — after comparing one's circumstances and conditions with those of the West and particularly the U.S. — here and there in the Islamic world the revival could ignite revolution, and it likely will. The key candidates are all oil-poor countries, such as Egypt and Turkey, but the potential for unrest is also in oil-rich Kuwait, Saudi Arabia (especially in the Eastern Provinces), and the United Arab Emirates. Some of the reasons are similar, with dissatisfaction with the character and lack of openness of their governing regimes being another factor.

Israel and Palestine

But the principal risk to instabilities in supply still rests with the Arab-Israeli confrontation, and it is here that the Islamic revival is likely to prove to be an ever more important ingredient.

The intimately related issue of Palestine has undergone something of a change after Arafat's decision to support Saddam Hussein. It might be thought he would be discredited by Arabs in the allied coalition. This may not be the case with Palestinians on the West Bank, in Jordan, even with refugees from Kuwait and those Palestinians ejected from Saudi Arabia, who may still regard Arafat as their own choice and give him even greater credit for having been on the side that confronted the United States, even if it failed. It would seem certain, however, that neither Saudi Arabia nor Kuwait will welcome the thought they should continue to be major financial supporters of the Palestinian movement under his leadership. But even with these changes, Israel likely to remain the centrepiece of Arab hostility.

An eruption over Israel is never to be discounted and it would again reveal a divided Muslim world. It is unlikely that another war would result in a unified oil embargo, against Europe and the

U.S. While "supporters of Israel" are the likely targets of an Islamic oil front, memories of a similar opportunity in 1973-74 would remind producers that even in those circumstances they could not agree to implement a total embargo against the U.S. Nonetheless, another Arab-Israeli war would be the likeliest military confrontation and, next time, Islam and the oil assets of Muslim nations might be a more powerful forger of Arab unity.

Chronic instabilities within Muslim nations, and between them, may not appear to differ significantly from those which plagued the region before the Islamic revival. Is there more than an Islamic overlay to historic animosities? Much will depend on the course of Egyptian aspirations and politics. Of all the Arab states, Egypt has been the centre of Islamic teachings. Whether this will increase or allay oil importers' concerns that Islam and oil could become an incendiary mix depends on the direction the Islamic leadership follows.

A link between Cairo and a major oil supplier, possibly Saudi Arabia, would make an influential combination in Middle East politics and economics. Egypt's military and political contribution to the coalition against Iraq must have told Saudi leaders that of all Arab states only Egypt could have played so significant a role. If this realisation leads to a major, continuing Saudi contribution to alleviate Egypt's economic distress, leadership of the Islamic revival for the region might rest in Cairo more generally but also in Riyadh with the protection of Holy Places in the kingdom. "Islam and oil" would then raise far fewer concerns among the oil importers of the industrialised nations.

Melvin Conant is the editor of Geopolitics of Energy to Washington DC. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

DO KUWAIT'S BURNING OILFIELDS THREATEN GLOBAL CLIMATE?

10 to 15 degrees Celsius. The atmospheric chemist, Professor Paul Crutzen of the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, made calculations about the "nuclear winter" in 1982 and was one of the first scientists in Germany to warn of the threat to the stratospheric ozone layer from chlorofluorocarbons. During the Gulf war, he issued urgent warnings about the world-wide consequences of the large oil fires in the Gulf. According to his calculations, if one assumes the worst possible case, 1.6 million tonnes of oil could go up in flames daily in Kuwait, resulting in a probable daily soot cloud of 100,000 tonnes. In addition, the resulting combustion gases would contribute significantly to the greenhouse effect. In this context, the climatologist Professor Christian-Dietrich Schönwiese of the University of Frankfurt on Main, pointed out that in view of the enormous amounts of oil burned daily throughout the world in the form of fuel, this would probably be only a local manifestation.

Much worse and not unlike the "nuclear winter," in the opinion of Crutzen and other scientists, could be the cloud of soot over the oil fields. The black particles absorb a great deal of solar radiation, and thus become very warm. "Then an enormous, black, hot air balloon with a temperature up to 80 degrees Celsius will ascend into the stratosphere," said Dr. Jürgen Hahn of the Fraunhofer Institute for Atmospheric Environmental Research in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Because of its strong thermal lift, this hot air balloon would even break through the tropopause, the twelve to fifteen kilometre high outer consequences for the balance divider between the troposphere and the stratosphere, not without consequences for the balance between the continuous destruction and formation of ozone.

"High temperatures in the stratosphere favour the destruction of the ozone molecule world-wide," commented Hahn, who has also worked out his own worst-case scenario; substances which penetrate the lower stratosphere are distributed evenly around the globe. Should the surface of 80 per cent of the Northern Hemisphere of the earth be covered, the solar radiation in the visible spectrum reaching the earth's surface would be weakened by some 90 per cent. This twilight with winter temperatures could last months or years. Greatly reduced photosynthesis with attendant crop losses would be accompanied by an increase in dangerous ultra-violet radiation. In addition, the flows of atmospheric air masses would be distorted beyond recognition.

In his estimation of the worst possible results of the Kuwaiti oil fires, the climatologist Professor Winfried Bach of the University of Münster considered it likely that the rainfall of the early summer monsoon rains in Southeast Asia would be reduced by 30 to 40 per cent. "A billion people there are threatened as a result of crop failure."

How quickly the earth's climate can change, was demonstrated by the eruption of the Indonesian Volcano Tambora in 1815; 150 cubic kilometres of dust was thrown into the atmosphere

and circled the earth for years in the stratosphere. As a result of the weak sunshine, 1816 was a year of world-wide frost in summer, famine, and extremely bizarre weather occurrences. ESSO spokesman Karl-Heinz Schult-Bernemann contrasts the estimated 1.6 million tonnes of oil which in the worst case could burn daily in Kuwait with the 0.24 million tonnes of oil which Kuwait has been pumping daily up until now. Beyond that, evidently no one, not even the OPEC spokesman, had any idea before now how many wells in Kuwait would flow spontaneously, or "erupt," after destruction of the pumping machinery. According to calculations on the part of the German Mineralölwirtschaftsverband (Petroleum Industry Association), Hamburg, it could be 20 per cent of all wells. Putting out fires of such wells would be particularly difficult. But in any event, it is all respects an open question as to how long it will take to put out all of the many fires in Kuwait — The German Research Service.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

would have to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel if they hoped to sponsor peace talks.

Egypt's approach would involve other nations, as well, many of which have opposed Israeli actions in U.N. votes.

Mr. Baker and his senior aides declined to hazard a guess how the Israeli plan would be received in his talks with Mr. Baker and with Prince Saud, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, in Cairo.

Relief

(Continued from page 1)

and "exploiting circumstances of an emergency nature for opportunistic and propaganda purposes."

U.N. officials say well over one million Iraqis have fled their homes.

Iran said Wednesday sanctuaries should be established in both northern and southern Iraq for Kurds and Shiites. Tehran Radio quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying the idea of havens — put forth by Britain only for Kurds — could gain more support if the United Nations took the lead.

"We believe Iraq should remain as a sovereign state," it quoted Mr. Velayati as saying in an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. "At the same time a safe environment should be created for Kurdish refugees in the north and one for Shiites in the south."

Earlier, Iran complained that a plan to establish a sanctuary for Kurds in Iraq ignored the plight of Shiites fleeing to Iran.

Tehran Radio said in a commentary that the British proposal for a haven — backed by other European states but rejected by Iraq and brushed aside by the United States — "ignored about half a million other refugees in southern Iraq."

The plan, it said, could have "secret political aims" and would pose an uncertain future of the Iraqi people rather than ending the suffering.

Masoud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, appealed for creation of a Kurdish enclave "as a humanitarian, not a political issue."

Mr. Barzani told reporters in the rebel-held highlands that a lack of vital supplies had led to increasing deaths among the estimated 300,000 to 400,000 Kurds headed for the Iranian border.

He said none of the aid air drops organised by the United States, France and Britain have reached the high, cold mountain passes near the Iranian border. Most fell near Turkey.

Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Sungar said 78,000 refugees had entered Turkey, 200,000 were on the border and 26,000 were on the Iraqi side.

Cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

whatever he likes of... confidential documents including those related to the minister's office. Al Thawra said.

It said the documents included communications codes, Ministry of Defence documents, among them papers dealing with investigations into people suspected of threatening state security. It did not say why such documents were to be found at the local government ministry.

"They are still left there and ordinary people have made it a habit and a hobby to sift through those confidential reports and enjoy reading their contents," the paper said.

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Arsenal moves closer to title as Liverpool held to home draw

LONDON (R) — Arsenal edged closer to the English League championship after drawing 1-1 at Southampton Tuesday while rivals Liverpool were held at home by Coventry.

Arsenal needed an own goal to take home a valuable point and with the defending champions also managing only a 1-1 scoreline the gap between them remains eight points.

Liverpool, who were beaten by Southampton eight days ago, have six games left. Arsenal have five.

Arsenal went ahead in the 74th minute when Mick Adams turned Alan Smith's shot into his own goal.

But their lead was short-lived. Matthew Le Tissier, who scored his side's winner against Liverpool, equalised five minutes later when he knocked in a cross from Adams.

It was the first goal England goalkeeper David Seaman had

conceded in five games and ended Arsenal's three-game winning streak.

Kevin Campbell, who had scored seven goals in his previous seven games, twice nearly capitalised on backpass errors late in the first half, screwing the ball across the face of a gaping goal from tight angles.

Le Tissier had a chance to score in the dying seconds of the first half but his free kick was brilliantly saved by Seaman at full stretch.

Ian Rush gave Liverpool's fading hopes of retaining the title a lift when he fired them into the lead in the 22nd minute, knocking in John Barnes' low cross for his 23rd goal of the season.

But Coventry deservedly pulled level 10 minutes before the interval when midfielder Mick Gynn tapped home from close range after Cyrille Regis beat goalkeeper Mike Hooper with a low shot.

Five minutes earlier Gynn thumped a tremendous header against the Liverpool bar.

Struggling Motherwell beat Celtic 4-2, Douglas Arnott scoring twice, to book themselves a place in the final of the Scottish Cup for the first time for 39 years.

The final on May 18 will be a family affair for the two managers — Motherwell's Tommy McLean and Dundee United's Jim McLean. Jim is the elder of the two brothers.

Celtic twice took the lead in the semifinal replay after the first game was drawn 0-0, only to see Arnott grab the equaliser each time.

Goals from substitute Steve Kirk and Colin O'Neill settled the tie and left Celtic goalkeeper Pat Bonner wondering what went wrong after failing by 60 minutes to reach a milestone of 1,000 minutes of Scottish Cup action without conceding a goal.



Ian Rush

Sacchi turns down offer from Real Madrid

MILANELLO, Italy (R) — AC Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi Tuesday turned down an offer to take over at ailing Spanish soccer champions Real Madrid.

"As I've said several times, I have a contract with Milan until June 1992," Sacchi said, indicating he had no intention of joining another club.

"I think Ramon Mendoza and Real Madrid, which boasts a glorious past and surely an equally positive future, who wanted me

as trainer for next season," he said in a statement he read to reporters after team practice.

Sacchi said he would tell AC Milan President Silvio Berlusconi what he had decided about his future when the league championship finishes at the end of May.

The coach who guided Milan to European Cup triumphs in 1989 and 1990 said last month that if he took another coaching job it would only be with a national

team.

The daily Gazzetta Dello Sport recently reported Berlusconi had offered him the post of Milan's general manager or the chance to become a commentator in his media empire.

Mendoza, bidding for reelection as Real's president, made a bid for Sacchi during a recent visit to Italy.

Real sacked Welsh coach John Toshack earlier this season and former Argentine star Alfredo di

Stefano, who took over, resigned recently after poor results. Yugoslav Radomir Antic is the present incumbent.

Spanish reporters at Milan's Milonello retreat said Mendoza would have virtually assured victory in the Real Madrid elections if he had secured Sacchi, widely respected in Spain where he is often referred to as the professor.

Sacchi's Milan beat Real Madrid in the European Cup semifinals in 1989.

Hoeness: League format could kill European Cup

MUNICH (R) — Uli Hoeness, manager of Germany's richest club Bayern Munich, believes plans to switch the later stages of the European Cup into a league format next season could ruin the continent's most prestigious club competition.

Speaking ahead of Bayern's cup semifinal first leg with Red Star Belgrade on Wednesday, Hoeness said Europe's governing soccer body UEFA would make the cup less attractive for many

fans by scrapping the present knock-out system.

UEFA's executive committee is expected to approve proposals next week to introduce two round-robin leagues of four teams after the first two rounds. Under the proposed system the winner of each group would then contest the final.

"It will kill the attractiveness of the European Cup," said Hoeness.

"You lose a home game, then

an away match, and then nobody bothers to come and watch because you can no longer win the group."

In addition to problems of attracting fans through the turnstiles, Bayern's coach Jupp Heynckes said he believed the sporting side of Europe's oldest club competition could also be endangered by the changes.

"I fear the European Cup could lose a bit from its sporting effect. The character of a cup

competition, the one (knockout) round is the thing that brings the tension and the interest," he said.

Otto Rehhagel, coach of 1988 league champions Werder Bremen, said, however, that increased revenue from the extra matches would help Bundesliga clubs compete financially with the rich Italian and Spanish clubs.

Most of Germany's World Cup-winning team already play in Italy and more stars are expected to leave Germany next season.

Edberg to clash with Connors in Japan Open

TOKYO (R) — World number one Stefan Edberg beat New Zealander Kelly Everden 6-2 7-6 Wednesday to set up a third round showdown with 38-year-old American Jimmy Connors in the Japan Open Tennis Championships.

The top-seeded Swede, seeking an unprecedented third successive title, took only 38 minutes to win the first set.

But he struggled with Everden's blistering service and hard-hitting ground strokes in the second set before finding his rhythm. Everden built a 4-2 lead before Edberg levelled the score 6-6 and easily won the tiebreak 7-2.

The top eight seeds all advanced comfortably to the third

round, the most impressive being American Michael Chang who completed a flawless 6-0 6-0 win over Australian qualifier John Fitzgerald.

Second seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia had a successful start in his bid to win a third title this year, eliminating India's 88th-ranked Ramesh Krishnan 6-3 6-2.

"It has been my first match in five weeks. So it was always a little bit difficult. But I won, so I am pleased with that," he said.

Connors showed some of his old form when produced a hard-fought 3-6 7-6 7-5 win over Australian Wally Masur.

"He (Connors) made a great comeback today. I thought Wally would win," Edberg said.

Crowd favourite John McEnroe, sixth seed and ranked 17th, dispatched Yugoslavia's Slobodan Zivonjovic 6-1 6-4.

In the women's competition, Japanese qualifier Kumiko Okamoto caused the day's major upset as she ousted defending champion Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 7-5 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals.

Top seed Amy Fraizer of the United States and second seed Sabine Appelmans of Belgium also won quarterfinal berths with straight set wins over Karin Kschwendt of Switzerland and Mana Endo of Japan respectively.

Connors, who has dropped to no. 590 in the world rankings, is a wild-card entry in his third

tournament.

He said he "wanted to play so bad and sometimes I get overanxious" and rushed returns.

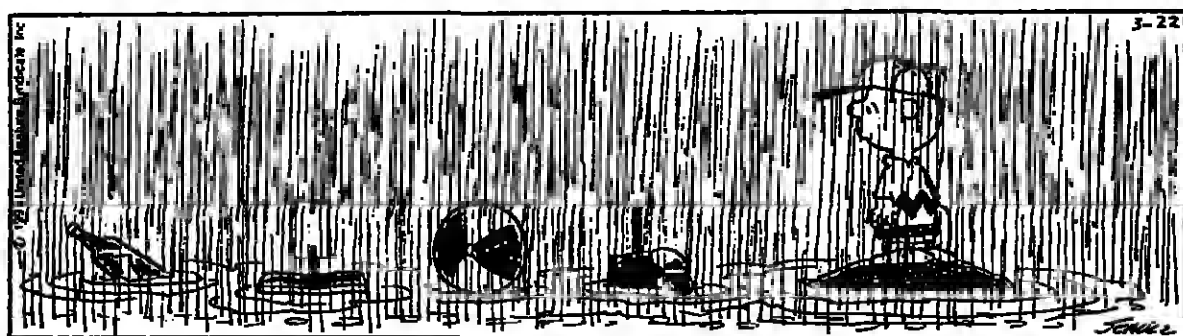
He said he wants to get to a stage where he is feeling comfortable on court.

"The more I play, the better I feel. The wrist is 100 per cent," he said. "It's just a case of playing more and getting that out of my mind."

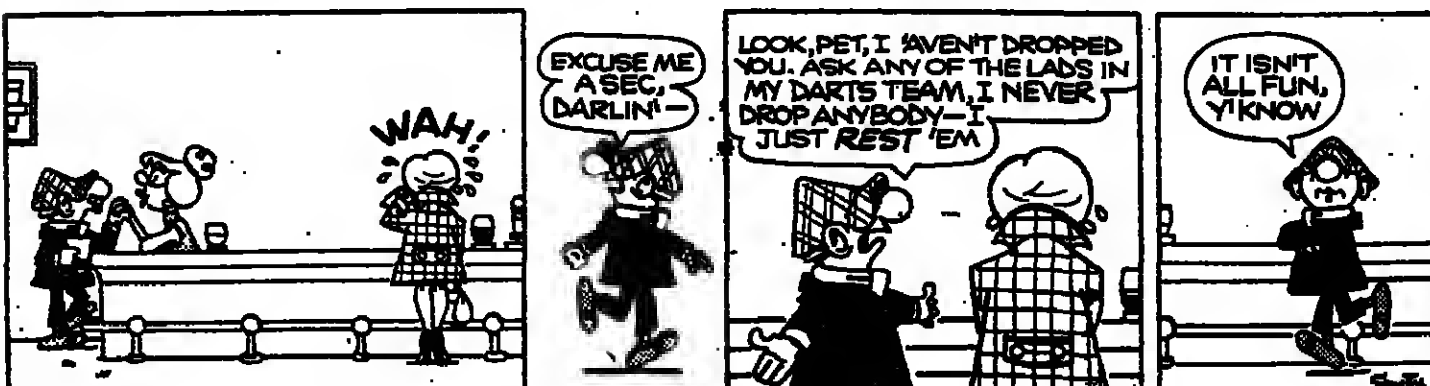
When he does stop playing tennis, he said, "there will be no comebacks."

"I have done everything I have set out to do, so everything is fun now. You don't know how much you like the game until it's taken away from you," said Connors, the all-time open leader in championships with 109.

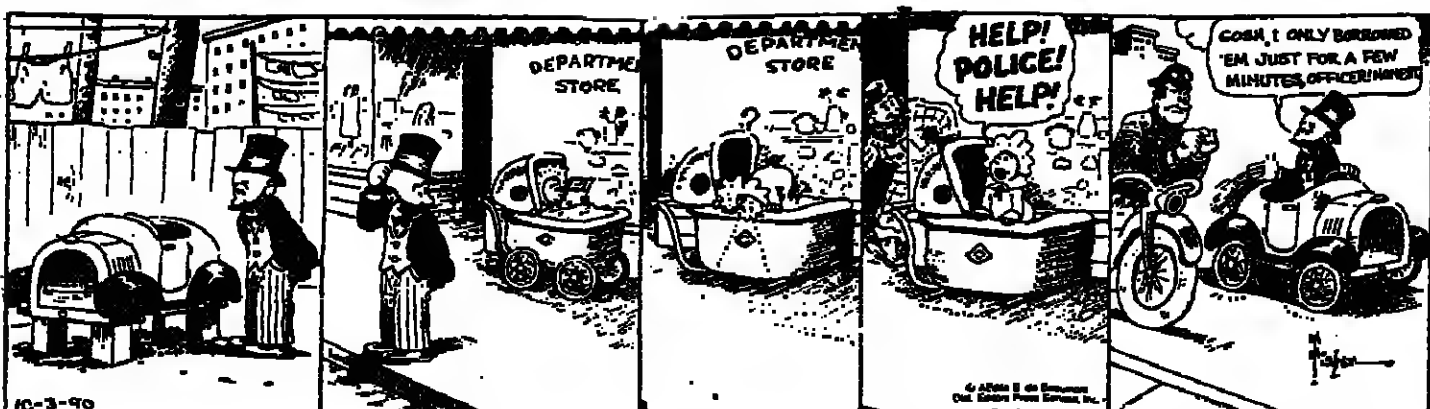
Peanuts



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Sabatini leads top seeds into Florida 3rd round

AMELIA ISLAND (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini feels better about her tennis game than ever before. It's easy to understand why.

The hottest player on the women's tour, and the sport's newest \$4-million winner, needed only 65 minutes to beat Italy's Federica Bonsignori 6-1, 6-0 Tuesday and advance to the third round of the Bausch and Lomb Championships at Amelia Island Plantation.

The Argentine player has won 21 of her last 22 matches, a stretch that includes titles in the Pan Pacific Open, Virginia Slims of Florida and Family Circle Cup, and a second-place finish in the International Players Championship.

"I've won some very important matches and it helped my confidence," said Sabatini, who's turnaround started in last year's U.S. Open when she beat German Steffi Graf in the final.

"I thought I was playing pretty good tennis before the U.S. Open, but everything wasn't coming together," said Sabatini, the second seed in this week's \$350,000 tournament. "After that, it seemed like everything changed."

"I'm playing more aggressive, not just staying on the baseline and hitting the ball," she added. "I feel a lot more confidence with all my shots."

Bonsignori said Sabatini never gave her chance to get into the match.

"She didn't miss anything," the Italian said. "She had two unforgotten errors the whole match." Graf, a 6-4, 6-0 winner over Canada's Rene Simpson-Alter in

a night match, joined Sabatini in moving on to the third round. Spain's Arantza Sanchez Vicario, Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia and Germany's Isabel Cueto also advanced.

Graf is trying to win this clay court tournament for the fourth time in six years. She struggled more Tuesday night with her concentration than with her opponent.

Down 3-0 in the first set, no. 162-ranked Simpson-Alter won four straight games before Graf regained her focus.

"I didn't have to be 100 per cent," said Graf, ranked no. 2 in the world. "I approach all matches the same, but in the back of your mind you know."

Sanchez, the no. 3 seed, trailed 3-1 in the opening set against American Linda Harvey-Wild, then won 11 consecutive games to complete a 6-3, 6-0 victory. Sukova and Cueto didn't have as easy a time.

Sukova fought off a challenge from 15-year-old amateur Chanda Rubin, who came within two points of beating the 13th-ranked player in the world. The American teenager won an opening set tie-breaker and rallied from a 3-0 deficit to lead 5-4 in the second.

Sukova broke Rubin's serve to pull even, then held for the set. Rubin went up 2-0 in the final set before Sukova won five straight games to close on her 6-7 (7-9), 7-5, 6-2 victory.

"I just couldn't get the key point to get to match point," said Rubin, who will climb from no. 196 to no. 172 in the rankings despite the loss. "She made a couple of tough shots when she really needed them."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 12, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Thinking out whatever means most to you and the principles under which you would most like to operate in the future could take a large part of this day as you enjoy a cultural pursuit.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A fine day for you to be on an optimistic note and to let others be more aware of your capabilities in the things you like to do the most.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your own residence needs some tuning up so get busy and make it that haven of rest you would like it to be and back up your family's desires.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is your time to get out and see most everyone who is anywhere near you and you can certainly show your interest in trips and expeditions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your finances need some looking into now for you have some ways and means by which to increase your income so don't be so lulled in pleasures.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is certainly your day to first get all dolled up after health treatments and for going out socially and stating desire to have some fun.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You usually concentrate on the details of any plan but now you are able to quietly look into the overall aspects of any situation and make decisions of importance.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you would like to do that does necessitate seeing and being with good friends is excellent

and your social pleasures can be just right.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you have in mind that does require astute handling on the worldly level is fine now so get in touch with executives and get their blessings.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for the silver lining in any cloud of doubt you have regarding that new plan or inspiration that has recently come to you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Let those persons who seem the most to you realize you are very conscientious in attending to whatever promises you have made in your exact performance.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look for a flash of inspiration from a conventional partner who likes to have praise that can make your whole relationship much better.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There is much improvement that you would be wise to make to your surroundings and this is just the day to put on your old clothes to get this done.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he has so much activity in their life that there will be a great many changes and new beginning which will cause a feeling of uneasiness since this child likes security in familiar circumstances. Keeping all on an even keel will prove difficult in this chart.

The adult: The adult, they do not compel. What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH
1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ K7 ♣ 86542 ♦ 9753 ♣ K Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A.—With a six-card major, a secondary four-card minor, and two kings, it might seem that it would be automatic to bid game. However, your high cards are in your short suits, so they are not pulling their full weight. Should partner have only a doubleton head headed by an honor, you could be in trouble. Bid two hearts.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ AK9 ♣ 7652 ♦ 952 ♣ 83 Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A.—The modern practice when partner opens with one of a minor is to bid your four-card suit up the line, and most experts we know would respond one heart. However, if there's a game on a 4-3 fit, it would have to be in spades, so we would upgrade our top-heavy honor or holding to the equivalent of a five-card suit and respond one spade. There are also lead-directing considerations.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ Void ♣ J10 ♦ Q10754 ♣ Q764 Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—You have the absolute minimum in terms of high cards and no fit, but your hand has considerable trick-taking potential. We would respond one no trump, with the intention of bidding our diamonds over any rebid partner might make.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AQ1052 ♣ KQ7 ♦ J ♣ K652 The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now? A.—With the singleton in partner's suit, your hand is neither strong enough for the high reverse of three clubs nor the right pattern for two no trump. Therefore, you should be content with a rebid of two spades to see what partner has in mind.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ A6 ♣ Q1062 ♦ QK10943 ♣ 5 The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now? A.—Partner has shown a good hand with his high reverse, but there is a possibility that this hand is a misfit. For the moment we suggest that, before you take a preference to spades, you stress the quality of your long suit and wait to hear whether or not that excites partner. Bid three diamonds.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ AKQ1052 ♣ J6 ♦ Q3 ♣ 107 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—Despite your self-sufficient suit, this hand lacks controls in the other suits, so a jump shift is out of the question. The best way to show your powerful ace-suit is to bid one spade now, then jump to four spades at your next turn.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 11, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The plans that you have started are going to require more work and effort to put them in order and make them more workable. Good day for friends and hobbies that you share with friends.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take some time out to do what your family likes now despite the fact that you have some little goodies of your own that you would like to put in effect.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get off to that parade or other civic, patriotic expression that brings you a greater awareness of how precious your heritage is to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make a point to use some funds now to show much you value and appreciate the country in which you live and the community in which you dwell.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You're the most patriotic and country-oriented of all the signs and you have a chance now to show your finest traits in this direction.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think out what you can quietly and privately do to show how much you value the many goodies in life are yours and back up allies who are loyal.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Today is your time to be with good friends and to talk out with them what you can do together in order to put your energies to better use.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October

22) Now you have the chance to do something of a community service or of a patriotic nature that can make your influence felt far beyond present boundaries.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A day to think upon lofty thoughts especially what you can do to aid any charity or philanthropic works that can add to your growth, development.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your deep seated urges now should be taken into account rather than superficial interests that do not send you off in the right direction.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your attitude towards your partners and what you do to cement ties with them now determines how far you can go to lift this relationship up.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There is much to do that could show others that you want to be of service in the right places and with the right persons so for those of this type.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There are some very wonderful pleasures you can have early so make as many appointments as possible to be with those persons that will be helpful.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he requires you handle their special shyness and reticence with special care while you build-up and develop this child's confidence. This child needs ethical, moral and spiritual training to bring out all of their best qualities and to ensure success in the world of activities.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"My doctor told me to get more exercise, so now I play with my gum before I swallow it."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TIFY

NOHR

RATTEP

LUSTYS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

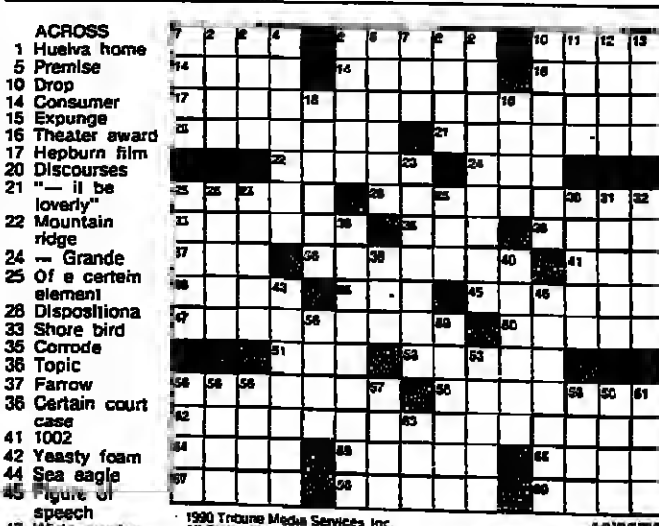
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PEACE MAIZE JUNKET EIGHTY

Answer: A sweater lends sex appeal to some, while all it does for others is . . . MAKE THEM ITCH

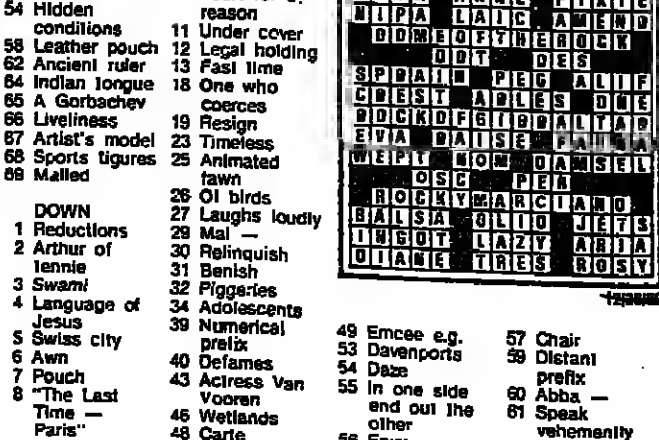
THE Daily Crossword

by Stephen Floeck



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Soviet Union heads for market or bust with new crisis plan

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev unveiled a do-or-die programme Tuesday for pulling the Soviet Union out of a deepening crisis and introducing a market economy.

The programme, drawn up by Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, was presented at a meeting between Kremlin and republican leaders and published by the official Soviet news agency TASS. It is due to be submitted to parliament within a week.

It calls for an authoritarian approach to introducing market-oriented reforms which could run into stiff opposition from republics demanding independence or greater autonomy.

Following are the main economic provisions, mostly to be implemented over the coming year with 31 new laws, eight presiden-

tial decrees and 10 agreements with republics:

— Stabilise the situation by declaring a moratorium on political strikes until the end of 1991 and set up a coordination committee with the republics to ensure that the programme is carried out.

— Complete transition to free market prices by Oct. 1, 1992. An income indexation law to be introduced.

— Work out privatisation plans in the second quarter of 1991. Loss-making firms to be privatised or have their managements sacked.

— End the monopoly of state foreign trade organisations this year and continue foreign trade decentralisation.

— Develop foreign exchange trading to help make the rouble

convertible. Introduce anti-inflation policies. Cut imports by 10 to 15 per cent by the end of 1991.

— Attract foreign investment with creation of free economic zones and legislation easing repatriation of profits.

— Introduce austerity budget measures for the second half of this year with a moratorium on new investment programmes.

— Suspend republican and local decisions that contradict Soviet laws. Withdraw subsidies from republics that refuse to cooperate in a new union treaty holding the Soviet Union together or fail to contribute to the central government budget.

— Grant the Soviet central bank greater powers over the banking system with a tougher stance on credits to rebellious

republics.

— Make authorities and enterprises responsible for meeting food supply obligations in 1991. Introduce centralised control of grain and other basic foodstuffs.

— Bring in extra workers and the army to help with harvesting and work in the food processing industry.

— Increase the proportion of food and other goods sold through private channels.

— Halt the decline in energy, transport and communications with the introduction of a "special regime" for 1991-1992.

— Reduce defence spending and convert military facilities to meet the needs of the civilian economy.

— Develop stock and commodities exchanges with Soviet and foreign participation.

Pentagon defers contractors' debts to avert bankruptcies

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department said Tuesday it granted its two biggest contractors two extra years to repay a \$1.3 billion debt to avoid the possibility of them filing for bankruptcy during the Gulf war.

Eleanor Spector, director of defence procurement at the Pentagon, said McDonnell Douglas and General Dynamics were given the extra time to pay the \$1.34 billion debt on a failed contract for a navy jet.

The debt represented overpayments made before development of the radar-evading Stealth A-12 attack plane was cancelled by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on Jan. 7.

"We possibly would have precipitated chapter 11 for one or both of the companies had we insisted on that repayment," Spector told a House armed ser-

vices subcommittee. Chapter 11 of the U.S. bankruptcy law protects companies from creditors while a judge tries to help them reorganise.

"This was in the middle of Desert Storm and we were moving equipment from them," Spector said. "They are our two largest contractors and conceivably they would not have performed in chapter 11."

The decision to delay such a huge debt payment for defence contractors is unprecedented, according to chairman Nicholas Mavroules, a Democrat, who called the special subcommittee hearing to investigate the delay.

McDonnell Douglas is the top U.S. defence firm with \$8.2 billion in contracts last year and makes the F-15 fighter planes and Apache helicopters used in the Gulf war.

Simson goes into liquidation

BERLIN (R) — Simson, the 90-year-old company that made former communist East Germany's only moped went into liquidation leaving its remaining 3,300 staff unemployed. "The Simson name will no longer exist," said Guenther Arnold, Simson Fahrzeug GMBH's deputy works council chairman. Simson's liquidation by the Treuhandanstalt privatisation agency fol-

lowed decisions to close much of the east's vehicle manufacturing. The loss-making Wartburg and Trabant car plants will shut this month. Arnold said the factory, which saw its markets swamped by Western competitors with unification last year, had practically ceased production last month. The Treuhand was looking for investors to use the failed company's plant, Arnold added.

Brazil, banks fix deal

BRASILIA (AP) — The government has reached an agreement with private creditor banks for payment of \$8.5 billion in arrears on its foreign debt.

Brazil will pay \$2 billion this year and convert the balance into 10-year bonds. Acting Economy Minister Joao Maia has said.

"This is a significant step towards a definitive solution to the debt," he said. Maia said Brazil will pay \$1 billion immediately and another \$1 billion in monthly instalments through December.

The bonds will have a three-year grace period and fixed interest rates, Maia said. Creditors can choose from a "menu" of options for interest payments.

Maia called the agreement on fixed interest rates "an unprecedented innovation."

"After eight months of negotiations, we view these terms with optimism and hope," he said. "It respects the availability of our international resources and the targets of fiscal austerity."

Egypt shores - up 4 state-owned banks with \$600m cash injection

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has injected hundreds of millions of dollars into its four major public sector banks to help them face a wave of competition hitting the country's cosseted financial markets.

Mahmoud Abdel Aziz, vice president of the state-owned National Bank of Egypt (NBE), said Tuesday Egypt had more than doubled the four banks' capital in the last few weeks with an injection of well over two billion pounds (\$600 million).

"They are increasing their equity to meet capital adequacy requirements according to international trends," he told Reuters in an interview.

Egypt's mammoth state-owned public sector is being dragged reluctantly along a path of free-market reform inspired by the

International Monetary Fund (IMF). Financial markets have been the first affected.

Since the beginning of the year the country has made the pound convertible, allowed banks to set their own interest rates, begun issuing treasury bills and demanded that banks adhere to international financial standards.

Egyptian bankers said the measures had already begun squeezing profits, with the country's approximately 50 private and public banks forced to raise interest rates to attract depositors and hold down lending rates to satisfy borrowers.

Abdel Aziz said NBE's capital was increased to 400 million pounds (\$120 million) from 250 million (\$75 million) last month and that last week the finance ministry, the bank's owner,

approved a second increase to one billion pounds (\$300 million).

Abdel Aziz said the ministry had deposited the funds in the banks earlier this year and would now transfer them to equity.

Western economists said Egypt had apparently financed the capital infusion with cash grants received from Gulf Arab states as a reward for its help in driving Iraq out of Kuwait.

Egypt has been negotiating an IMF accord for more than three years. On Tuesday in IMF delegation left Cairo with a long-awaited "letter of intent" agreement to submit to its board of directors.

The four state-owned banks — NBE, Banque de Cairo, Banque Misr and the Bank of Alexandria — were taken over or created by the state in a wave of nationalisa-

tions that began in the early 1960s.

Economists said some had loans on their books that had not been serviced for decades.

Abdel Aziz said his bank had set aside bad loan provisions of more than one billion pounds (\$300 million), which he said was the highest among public sector banks.

"We are satisfied with our coverage," he said.

A circular to both private and public banks in January set out the country's first mandatory capital-to-assets ratio.

It said capital, reserves and provisions must equal at least eight per cent of total bank assets and set out a two to four year timetable for banks to comply. Mandatory liquidity ratios were also introduced.

IMF: World economy in 1991 may perform worst since 1982

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects the industrialised world to turn in its worst economic performance since 1982 this year, but looks for a rebound next year. Western diplomats said Tuesday.

The IMF's semi-annual forecast, due to be formally unveiled later this month at the fund's spring meeting, expects economic growth in the industrialised world to slump to 1.4 per cent this year.

That would be the worst performance since the global recession of 1981-82 and compares with growth of 2.5 per cent last year.

The poor performance reflects the impact of the Gulf crisis, particularly the sharp rise in oil prices that followed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August.

But the IMF expects growth in the industrialised world to pick up next year to about 2.8 per cent, paced by economic recoveries in the United States, Canada and Britain.

Global output, including the developing world, is also expected to pick up in 1992 to about three per cent.

The IMF has scaled back its estimate of global growth this year to take account of the financial fall-out from the Gulf crisis, which triggered a sharp rise in oil prices last year and is generally blamed for pushing the U.S. economy into recession.

In its last published forecast in September, the IMF projected growth of 2.4 per cent this year in both the global economy and the industrialised world.

Diplomats said the IMF gener-

ally agrees with the Bush administration that the U.S. economy will snap out of recession later this year. It expects the U.S. economy to grow 2.8 per cent next year after being flat in 1991.

The economies of both Japan and the former West Germany are likely to expand about three per cent this year. Growth in Japan is likely to pick up slightly next year, but that of the former West Germany will fall to about two per cent.

The IMF is not producing overall forecasts for a united Germany because reliable economic data from the former East Germany is not yet available.

Diplomats said economic growth is expected to slow in former West Germany because the German government was forced to raise taxes to curb the

mounting fiscal deficit.

The IMF expects Canada's economy to bounce back strongly next year, growing at well above three per cent, diplomats said.

The United Kingdom's recovery is expected to be less robust, perhaps on the order of about two per cent.

The world economy is also likely to benefit next year from a turnaround in the Middle East following a steep downturn in 1991 stemming from the Gulf crisis, diplomats said.

Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean is also expected to pick up, to around three per cent in 1992 from about 1.5 per cent this year, they said.

Eastern European economies should stabilise next year after slumping this year and last.

Bonn raises pensions in east, offers incentives to work there

BONN (R) — Bonn announced a 15 per cent rise in pensions in east Germany Tuesday and offered western civil servants extra financial incentives to work in the economically depressed region.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Norbert Blum said the average east German pension would rise to \$20 marks (\$489) a month from July 1, just over half the average in wealthy West Germany.

"We are transferring to the new federal states a system of old-age care that is without parallel in the world," Blum told a news conference. "This is an important contribution to the social unity of Germany."

East and west Germany united in October 1990.

West German pensions law will apply in the five new states of former East Germany from 1992, meaning that pensioners will receive a maximum of 70 per cent

of salary on retirement. But wages are still much lower in the east and it will take years before pensions reach Western levels.

The Grey Panthers, a party representing old people, were unimpressed.

It said east Germans should be guaranteed a minimum pension of 1,200 marks (\$718) to help them cope with rising rents and living costs as communist-era subsidies are phased out.

Other changes mean former members of the hated Stasi security police and other communist officials will effectively have their pensions cut.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble said the monthly salary supplements paid to civil servants who move east to help rebuild central and local government would rise by nearly 800 marks (\$479) a month to a maximum of 2,500 marks (\$1,500).

West German civil servants, around 10,000 of whom are already working in the east, were offered additional incentives such as faster promotion if they accepted such assignments.

"The situation in the new states shows how important an efficient and effective public administration is for the functioning of the economy," Schauble told a news conference.

Local government is barely functioning in some areas and Western companies have cited delays and obstacles in dealing with bureaucracy as factors discouraging them from investing in east Germany.

East German employees of a Western-owned bank published an open letter to the mayor of Dresden Tuesday urging him to deal urgently with their request for permission to build an office in the city. The request was made last summer.

Japan gives Algeria 20b yen credit line

ALGIERS (R) — The Japanese Export-Import Bank opened a line of credit of 20 billion yen (\$148 million) for four Algerian banks under an accord signed in Algiers Tuesday, the official news agency APS reported.

The credits, repayable between two and seven years and available over a period of two years, are to be used to finance imports of Japanese industrial equipment, spare parts, tyres and steel products.

The agency said interest rates would be fixed when each commercial contract is concluded.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Wednesday, April 10, 1991					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	674.0	678.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	496.9	501.9
Pound Sterling	1208.2	1215.4	Dutch guilders	338.8	361.0
Deutsche mark	404.5	406.9	Swedish crowns	111.9	112.6
Swiss franc	477.3	480.2	Italian lira (for 100)	54.6	54.9
French franc	119.5	120.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	196.6	197.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.7892/7902	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1521/26	Canadian dollar	
	1.6685/92	Deutsche marks	
	1.8790/8800	Dutch guilders	
	1.4120/30	Swiss francs	
	34.31/35	Belgian francs	
	5.6420/70	French francs	
	1238/1239	Italian lire	
	135.25/35	Japanese yen	
	6.0330/80	Swedish crowns	
	6.5010/60	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4075/25	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	363.65/364.15	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
TOKYO — Stocks finished easier in thin trade after moving narrowly around their opening level for most of the day. The Nikkei average was down 48.53 points, or 0.18 per cent, to 26,268.86.	
SYDNEY — Softer overseas markets sent shares lower but prices showed some resilience at sharply weaker levels. The All Ordinaries Index ended down 6.5 at 1,442.6.	
HONG KONG — Shares staged a late rally to claw back from sharp morning losses, ending the day comfortable higher. The Hang Seng Index ended 20.32 higher at 3,777.62.	
SINGAPORE — The roller-coaster Stock Market Index closed mixed after selective bargain hunting in this trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index closed down 9.28 at 1,460.15.	
BOMBAY — Exchange closed till Thursday. On Tuesday, the BSE Index rose 1.83 points to 1,240.53 after peaking at 1,256.80. The National Index gained 2.11 to 621.05.	
FRANKFURT — Shares ended 1.3 per cent lower in thin trading. Edginess about possible further German interest rate rises contributed to general gloom. The Dax Index closed down 20.22 at 1,561.89.	
ZURICH — Shares closed lower as higher Swiss money market rates and Wall Street's 45-point slide on Tuesday weighed on the market. The SPI closed at 1,073.9, down 13.1.	
LONDON — Prices ended easier but above their early lows, reflecting the market's new mood of consolidation after strong gains earlier in the year. The FTSE Index ended down 8.4 at 2,518.8.	
NEW YORK — Blue Chips erased their gains in afternoon trading as some futures-related selling and weak bond prices weighed on the market. The Dow was down about eight at 2,865.	

TODAY AT

Cinema Tel: 677420
CONCORD

PRETTY WOMAN

Show: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571
NIJOUR

BAT MAN

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155
RAINBOW

Adel Imam & Yusra

in
'Karakon' in the street
(Arabic)

3:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA

MICKEY ROURKE...IN A PRAYER FOR THE DYING

12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 699238
PLAZA

FUNNY FAMILY

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 8:00, 10:00 p.m.

Manila seeks \$84m in war reparations

MANILA (R) — The Philippines will seek about \$84 million in reparations to recover losses incurred due to the Gulf war, foreign affairs officials said Tuesday.

The claims will be filed with the United Nations as soon as documentation is completed, Sedfrey Ordenez, Philippine ambassador to the United Nations told reporters.

The claims include damages to displaced Filipino workers, repatriation expenses by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the state-owned Philippine Airlines, he said.

The foreign undersecretary for international labour affairs with the Philippines' foreign affairs

department, Israel Bocobo, said 30,000 Filipinos who fled Kuwait after Iraq's Aug. 2 occupation claimed losses totalling \$72 million.

"With the assurances of the U.N. and the Kuwaiti government, and the willingness of the Iraqi government to comply with the U.N. resolutions, I am optimistic of actually collecting some sort of war reparations from Iraq," he told reporters.

"We are seeking exemplary damages and moral damages because of the anguish suffered by (the evacuees)," Bocobo said.

There are around 500,000 Filipinos working in the Middle East, most of them in Saudi Arabia.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A leading bank is seeking an ambitious Jordanian M.B.A. graduate, preferably with a finance concentration, to work in a research environment. Qualified applicants must meet the following requirements:-

1. Good command of Arabic and English (written and spoken)
2. Age between 24-30 years.
3. Completed military service.
4. Practical experience in finance and banking is a plus.

Qualified candidates please send C.V.'s and writing samples in both Arabic and English to:-

Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 435
Amman - Jordan

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

AVISO A TODOS LOS ESPANOLAS RESIDENTES EN JORDANIA

El proximo 26 de Mayo se celebraran elecciones municipales y autonómicas en Espana. Los espanoles residentes en el extranjero que deseen ejercer su derecho de voto deberan comunicarlo a la Embajada de Espana. A tal efecto seran expuestas a partir de hoy dia 10 de Abril y hasta el dia 17, inclusive, las listas electorales.

En este plazo se podra presentar toda reclamacion administrativa sobre la inclusion o exclusion en el censo.

Para consultar las listas o para mayor informacion: Embajada de Espana, Primer circulo - C/Reina Zeln, Jabal Amman - Amman, Telf. 622140 / 624187

CAR WANTED

Duty paid. Medium size. JD 5,000 maximum.
Call 672346 after 2:30 p.m.

CAR FOR SALE

MITSUBISHI COLT, model 1988, burgundy red, only 15,000 kms, radio/cassette player, duty unpaid. Price: JD 4,000 or best offer.
Please call (from Sunday onwards): 644635

USED VCR WANTED TO BUY

Family wants to buy a second hand but good condition video cassette recorder with Pal/Secam and NTSC recording/playback capabilities.
If you have one for sale, please phone 663458.

لانا من لانا

Sharia to be made Pakistan's supreme law, Sharif says

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced Wednesday his government had decided to make the Islamic code of Sharia "supreme law" for Pakistan.

He told a joint meeting of the two houses of parliament he would introduce two bills immediately to enforce Sharia based on the teachings of the Koran and the Sunnah, or the practices of the Prophet Muhammad.

"One will be a Sharia bill and other will amend the constitution to make Koran and Sunnah as the supreme law," he said.

Details of the two bills were not immediately available. Sharif said introducing Sharia would fulfill one of his Islamic Democratic Alliance's main promises in a general election campaign last October which ended in the defeat of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Controversy over Sharia has raged in Islamic Pakistan for several years. Orthodox Islamic clergyman have wanted to enforce it while liberal Muslims argue that its introduction could turn Pakistan into a theocracy like Iran.

"I am not a fundamentalist

who will not follow the requirements of modern times," Sharif said. "We will have to open our doors to change."

The prime minister said he had also decided to introduce a package of legal reforms that would include measures to fight bribery and the possession of illegal arms and would make it easier for people to seek justice from the courts.

"If anybody tries to obstruct these changes, I will remove the burden with the support of the people," he said.

He said he also wanted to reorganise administrative machinery and the police, whom he accused of wanting to maintain the status quo and being averse to change.

"If they fail to march with the time, I will revert to people and appeal for hundreds of thousands of volunteers (to replace them)," he said.

Bhutto to end boycott

Meanwhile Bhutto Tuesday called off her boycott of parliament after the governing coalition agreed to investigate the alleged intimidation, kidnapping and torture of her party members.

Ms. Bhutto and her party's legislation agreed to take their seats for Wednesday's joint session.

Ms. Bhutto's party and its smaller allies control 45 of the 217 seats in the National Assembly, the law-making lower house, and five of 87 in the Senate, or upper house.

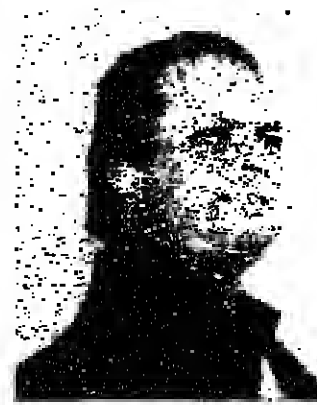
"This isn't an ideal accord, but in the given environment it's a good beginning," said Nisar Ali Khan, one of the government's three negotiators.

Neither Ms. Bhutto nor Sharif were present for the accord's signing.

Sources say the Islamic Democratic Alliance was eager to end the boycott by Ms. Bhutto, fearing the army might use it as an excuse to overthrow the civilian government.

The army, long considered the maker and breaker of civilian governments, has ruled Pakistan for more than half its 43-year history. Predictions of another takeover surface during times of uncertainty or crisis.

Ms. Bhutto called the boycott in February, charging the Sindh government was trying to eliminate her and the Pakistan People's Party as a political force in her



Nawaz Sharif

home province.

The head of the Sindh government, Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali, has denied the charges.

Ms. Bhutto's 20-month government was dismissed abruptly on Aug. 6 on charges of corruption, misconduct and abuse of power. Since then, she contends, more than 500 party members have been kidnapped, arrested on false charges or are languishing in jail without trial.

As part of the three-point agreement, the government agreed to set up a six-member committee to investigate Ms. Bhutto's allegations.

Serbian minister resigns in wake of clashes

BELOGRADE (AP) — The Interior Minister of Yugoslavia's largest republic has resigned his post, the state Tanjug News Agency reported Wednesday, apparently in response to non-Communist opposition demands.

Serbian Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic's resignation comes after two people died in violent clashes between Serbian police and protesters in a March 9 rally. More than 200 others were injured.

Students and the opposition protested for several days after the killings, demanding Bogdanovic's resignation and the punishment of those responsible for the crackdown.

Serbia's parliament accepted Bogdanovic's resignation despite the government's recommendation that it not do so, Tanjug said.

It said Bogdanovic would remain in his post until a replacement is named.

Bogdanovic submitted his resignation at a parliament session Tuesday night after legislators adopted a report on the March 9 rally by a vote of 158 to 27, with one abstention, Tanjug said.

It said the opposition was not satisfied with the report, drafted by a parliamentary investigating commission, but did not provide details of its contents.

The document was adopted after the governing Socialist Party — the renamed Communists — and the opposition held a one-day debate on who was responsible for the clashes.

Sandor Nagy, an opposition legislator, criticised the report as "turning the opposition into criminals," Tanjug reported.

The March 9 violence and the ensuing protests shook Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's grip on power. Since then, he has seemed more willing to negotiate with his counterparts in Yugoslavia's other five republics over the country's future.

Milosevic is at odds with the leaders of the Western-oriented states of Slovenia and Croatia over whether Yugoslavia should remain a tight federation or become a loose alliance of sovereign states.

The leaders of Yugoslavia's six republics are scheduled to meet Thursday for more talks on a framework for a new Yugoslavia.

ANC ready to back down from ultimatum

CAPE TOWN (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) appeared ready Wednesday to back down from an ultimatum demanding the dismissal of two cabinet ministers but its leaders said the government had to act firmly against township violence.

The ANC said in a statement that its Deputy President Nelson Mandela told a selected audience at a briefing in Cape Town Tuesday the ultimatum was designed to "restore confidence in the peace process."

"If the government shows a reasonable response to our reasonable demands, we, on our side, will not be found wanting," it quoted him as saying.

The ANC said in an open letter to President F.W. de Klerk last Friday that it would break off talks with the government if its demands, set out in a seven-point ultimatum, were not met.

Two senior ANC officials said privately the ANC would be satisfied with a significant demonstration of the government's good faith and its intention to quell township violence that has claimed 1,200 lives around Johannesburg in six months.

Mandela flew to Cape Town Tuesday to brief diplomats and an invited audience of politicians and community leaders on the ANC's ultimatum.

The anti-apartheid movement set a May 9 deadline for acceptance of the demands, including the dismissal of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and De-

fence Minister Magnus Malan. It also called for strong measures to halt black political violence that has claimed almost 10,000 lives across the country since 1984.

Western diplomats told Reuters Mandela made it clear the ANC would not insist on the sacking of the ministers if other demands were taken seriously.

"He told us the ANC had to force the government to do something about the terrible violence in the townships. He said this is a cry from the people for peace," one diplomat said.

"I am quite convinced the ultimatum was not a power play. It was a genuine attempt to force the government to act."

De Klerk said in a cautious reaction to the ultimatum Friday that the ANC was exploiting the township carnage to its own advantage, but he promised to work to end the killing.

Vlok said Monday the ANC's ultimatum was designed to stall talks on South Africa's transition to democracy because the movement was internally divided and needed time to regroup.

Diplomats said the ultimatum had shocked Western governments and had cost the ANC sympathy abroad.

"Our primary concern is to keep the talks on track. The ANC's action threatens the peace process and that did not go down well," one European ambassador said.

Britain's parties launch campaigns for local polls

LONDON (AP) — Britain's political parties Wednesday launched campaigns for nationwide local elections which are likely to determine whether the new prime minister, John Major, calls a general election this summer.

Thirty million people, nearly half the total population, are eligible to vote in the May 2 ballot for 12,000 seats on local councils in England and Wales.

Good results for the Conservatives will increase the chances of Major calling an election in June, a year before the deadline.

The campaign will be dominated by local taxes following the Conservative government's major blunder with the so-called poll tax introduced in England a year ago to help finance local government.

The tax, levied irrespective of income, helped bring down ex-

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in November.

Major's Tory government, in a policy turnaround, announced on March 21 the abolition of the poll tax and raised sales taxes to pay for a £140 (\$250) across-the-board reduction in the average tax of £400 (\$712) a person.

Major's cabinet is still arguing over how to levy the new tax, based on property values and the number of adults in a household.

At a news conference, opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock pledged a return to the old system of property taxes with rebates for low income people.

The centrist Liberal Democratic Party, which runs third nationally but traditionally does well in local elections, was outlined a plan for a local income tax.

Shevardnadze: Kremlin was urged to use force in Eastern Europe

MOSCOW (R) — Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze says the Kremlin came under heavy pressure in the autumn of 1989 to use force to halt anti-Communist revolutions in Eastern Europe.

In an interview with the weekly Literary Gazette published on Wednesday, he indicated Soviet hardliners now bitterly criticising his policies would have been ready to risk sparking a new world war to prevent the reunification of Germany.

"Was there a real alternative to the events of autumn-winter 1989-90? After all, what was happening essentially was revolution, broad popular risings against the existing regimes," Shevardnadze

said.

"There was of course an alternative ... we were quite actively pushed to use force, that is to resurrect the doctrine under which a crisis of power in one country of the Socialist community must be overcome by military intervention from the others."

"In other words, we were being told to act according to the scenarios of 1953, 1956 and 1968," he said, in a reference to Soviet and Warsaw Pact military intervention in East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Shevardnadze, now heading a foreign policy think-tank, did not specify who had urged similar moves in 1989 but the wording of his remarks suggested pressure

came from both Soviet domestic sources and from East Europe's then-Communist leaders.

After Soviet-led Warsaw Pact forces crushed a reformist government in Prague in 1968, then-Kremlin chief Leonid Brezhnev and his aides formulated a doctrine providing for collective action to maintain Moscow-style rule throughout the bloc.

For two decades the Kremlin denied any such principle existed.

But it was formally renounced by current Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980s as he sought to build better relations with the West and to push reluctant Communist chiefs in Eastern Europe towards reform.

Albania dumps 'socialist' in draft constitution

TIRANA (R) — Albania's ruling Communists Wednesday unveiled a draft constitution that drops the word Socialist from the country's title and puts party leader Ramiz Alia in line for a powerful executive presidency.

The draft was published in the Communist Party newspaper Zeri i Popullit five days before the opening session of the small Balkan state's first multi-party parliament since hardline Communists took power in 1944.

"The Republic of Albania is a just and democratic state based on social equality, the protection of all human rights and political pluralism," article two says.

Meeting opposition Democratic Party demands, the document drops Albania's title as a People's Socialist Republic.

It codifies wide-ranging rights for Albanians while dropping all references to Marxism and a preface extolling the ruling Party of Labour (PLA) that are in the existing 1976 constitution of late Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha.

Alia, 66 and head of state since 1982, was ousted from parliament in recent elections by an opposition Democrat. The defeat put his political survival in doubt.

But the draft says parliament can elect anyone president provided the person "fulfills all conditions for being elected a deputy." It does not stipulate that the head of state must come from the parliament's ranks.

The PLA won a two-thirds majority of 168 seats in the 250-member People's Assembly to 85 for the four-month-old Democrats in the elections.

The PLA victory, preceded and followed by violent anti-Communist unrest, is enough to push through the new constitution without the opposition.

A government official said approval of the draft constitution would be one of the first tasks of the new parliament, due to convene next Monday.

Democratic Party leaders said they had not yet studied the draft fully. Party chairman Sali Berisha said he had objections to parts he had read.

The opposition objected to a draft published last December which continued to call Albania a People's Socialist Republic.

Indonesia approves Democracy Forum but wants another name

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's government has finally blessed a Democracy Forum set up last week by a leading Muslim on condition it changes its name and promises not to become an opposition group.

"The forum will not become an institution outside existing institutions. It means the forum will remain in the system," an Interior Ministry spokesman Wednesday quoted Hari Sugiman, director general for social and political affairs, as saying.

"The name has created many problems... many interpretations," Sugiman said, and would have to be changed. "Even the word 'forum' can be a problem, let alone 'democracy,'" he said.

He said the name would remind people of the Democracy League in Poland which backed the country's Solidarity movement, the major force in bringing an end to Communist rule.

The forum, which includes Christian intellectuals, has sparked enormous interest in Indonesia largely because it is headed by Abdurrahman Wahid, who leads the country's largest Muslim group, the Nahdlatul Ulama.

About 90 per cent of the 180

million Indonesians officially follow Islam, the religion's largest community in the world.

Political life in Indonesia has long been dominated by an all-powerful executive, and reaction to the Forum has been mixed.

The immediate response of some government officials has been to call the Forum unnecessary since existing organisations were quite enough to permit people to air their views.

Others have been more positive about the group, whose stated purpose is to encourage greater democracy in the diverse Indonesian archipelago.

"Why the fuss? Democracy is something that still has to be developed. And it is not only political parties which should do that. It is the duty of everybody," Rachmat Witoelar, secretary general of the ruling Golkar Party, told the weekly magazine Tempo.

Among the Interior Ministry guidelines, the Forum should change its name, avoid politics and not act as an opposition force, the ministry spokesman said.

"Abdurrahman had met the conditions anyway," a Western diplomat said.

"The idea is moderate. He is a responsible person... he has not been confrontational. He's avoided all the things that normally cause red lights to flash."

Past attempts to set up any body that gives any semblance of opposition to the 25-year leadership of President Suharto have been quickly sat upon.

In the 1970s a group of former ministers, generals and religious leaders formed the Petition Of 50 which criticised the government.

Its members have been banned from going abroad and effectively prevented from conducting private business.

The Democracy Forum was the first of two groups announced last week to give Indonesians a greater say in how they are governed.

The other was the Indonesian League for the Restoration of Democracy, headed by veteran human rights campaigner Johannes Pinem. The government has yet to give its official verdict on this group.

The establishment of both groups coincides with the increase in political manoeuvring ahead of general elections next year and presidential elections in 1993.

U.S. puts condition for better ties with Hanoi

WASHINGTON (AP) — American officials have met with Vietnamese diplomats and indicated willingness to improve ties in return for help in easing strife in Cambodia and accounting for servicemen missing since the Vietnam war.

In response to a flexible Vietnamese attitude, the United States would be prepared to ease travel restrictions and eventually the U.S. embargo on trade with Vietnam, an American official said.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon outlined the U.S. position in a meeting in New York with Trinh Xuan Lang, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations.

The State Department issued a statement saying Solomon provided a "road map" showing how Vietnamese cooperation would lead to improved ties.

The U.S. government has been

seeking Vietnamese cooperation in ending the civil war in Cambodia and in gaining an accounting of the estimated 1,700 American servicemen still listed as missing from the Vietnam war.

The United States has never recognised the Hanoi government and a trade embargo imposed in 1975 remains in effect. It was 16 years ago this month that Hanoi defeated the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government, completing the Communist takeover of Vietnam. Tuesday's meeting was the first high-level meeting between the two sides in six months.

The U.S. position is that normal relations with Vietnam are not possible until there is a settlement in Cambodia, where a Vietnamese-backed government has been fighting rebel groups for more than a decade. Two of the groups receive U.S. assistance.

Sri Lanka reports 92 rebels killed in clashes

COLOMBO (AP) — The army killed at least 92 Tamil guerrillas in two major operations, destroying a rebel camp and recapturing a northwestern village, military officials said Wednesday.

Four soldiers also were killed and 12 wounded in the fighting Tuesday, the officials said, bringing the death toll to nearly 800 since a rebel offensive in the mainly Tamil northeast began three weeks ago.

The Tamil rebels contend the Sinhalese-dominated government is boosting the Sinhalese population in the northeast with settlers and troops to divide Tamil areas.

In one battle Tuesday, a special army unit toppled a rebel training camp at Toppigala village in the eastern Batticaloa district, killing 32 guerrillas, officials said on condition of anonymity under briefing rules.

In the northwestern Mannar district, troops assisted by aircraft and helicopter gunships recaptured Mantai village. Officials said briefings of the pilots and intercepted rebel radio messages indicated that at least 60 rebels were killed in the fight.

General Cyril Ranatunga, secretary of the Defence Ministry, said government troops have gone on the offensive after the rebels repeatedly attacked government bases.

Military officials said 791 people have been killed since March 20, including 111 soldiers and security personnel, 600 rebels and 71 civilians.

Lawrence Thilaker, a spokesman for the Tamil Tiger rebels in Paris, attributed the upsurge in fighting to the army's attempts to mass troops and colonise Tamil areas with Sinhalese refugees.

"We will not let this happen," he said.

"These attempts are bound to fail, but at a cost of many lives and untold suffering," he said in a telephone interview.

We claimed the government was moving settlers into the Trincomalee area in the northeast to create a wedge between areas held by the rebels.

At least 6,000 people have been killed since the rebels shattered a 13-month ceasefire and broke off peace talks in June, raising to about 17,000 the total killed since the Tamil rebellion began in 1983.

10 years after riots, racial tension high in U.K.

LONDON (R) — Ten years after black youths clashed with police in one of Britain's worst riots, some inner city areas remain a tinderbox ready to flare.

Community leaders say people in Brixton, south London, and other urban centres still suffer from racial discrimination and neglect despite government pledges to stamp out deprivation.

"There is a danger that because we have not had manifestations of discontent in the past 10 years, people may think there is no such discontent," Peter Sanders, chief executive of the commission for racial equality said.

"There is just as much cause for concern now as there was then."

On April 10, 1981, hundreds of mainly black youths rampaged through Brixton streets. Shouting about police harassment and discrimination, they torched cars and buildings, hurled missiles at

police, injuring nearly 300, and looted shops.

The confrontation sparked copycat riots in a summer of protest which kept police busy in several parts of London, Tooting in Liverpool, and other cities.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher set up an inquiry into the Brixton riots under liberal Judge Lord Scarman, who reported that racial disadvantage was a significant factor.

"Urgent action is needed if it is not to become an endemic, ineradicable disease threatening the very survival of our society," Scarman said.

Scarman reported a breakdown in the relationship between blacks and police. In two weeks before the riot, police stopped and searched 3,000 people in Brixton.

Chief superintendent Roger Street said the relationship had now improved but called for

more black police officers. There are 12 non-white officers in a force of 300 in Brixton, where a third of the community is black.

Critics say they still seek fulfilment of Thatcher's pledge, the night she won her third term in 1987, to tackle inner city deprivation. They say prospects are unlikely to improve in a recession and a surge in unemployment.

Her successor John Major, who as a boy lived a stone's throw from the site of the Brixton riots, promised to work towards a classless society. The day he took over last November he said he wanted to create a Britain of opportunity for all.

The inner cities are not holding their breath, critics say. British officials told a United Nations Civil Rights Committee last week that racial prejudice existed in Britain but the government was taking steps to combat

it, especially in housing and employment.

Some things have changed. Three blacks and one Asian were elected to the House of Commons and the first black woman has become a queen's counsel, a status bestowed by the monarch on barristers of distinction.

But the ruling Conservatives have been involved in a public tussle over the choice of a black parliamentary candidate for a safe seat in gentile Cheltenham.

Walley Baker, director of South London Business Initiative, said unemployment was the key to inner city problems.

"Unemployment is moving from the under 25s to the over 25s. This is bad for individuals and bad for community as a whole," Baker said.

"That sense of frustration is still here."

COLUMN

Oat bran has edge on oat meal

CHICAGO (R) — Oat bran and oat meal can both lower cholesterol levels, but it appears to take smaller servings of bran to do the job, according to a study.

Bran, which is the coat of a cereal seed, may act in lesser quantities because it contains higher levels of beta-glucan, a fibre which is found in both oat products, said the report in this week's journal of the American Medical Association.

Meal is ground-up grain or cereal. The study, conducted by Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Centre in Chicago, was financed by Quaker Oats Co.

Men and women in the study who were fed either oat bran or meal in combination with a low-fat diet reduced their blood cholesterol by up to 15 per cent.

TV to show private paintings of British royalty

LONDON (R) — Britain's monarchy is giving world television viewers a look into its past with a series on royal art that will feature portraits of Royal mistresses and a picture of Queen Victoria breast feeding her son.

Queen Elizabeth has allowed her private collection of old master paintings and intimate family portraits to be filmed for a British-Japanese television series to be shown next year. The queen's art custodian, who gave details of the proposed programmes, said many of the 7,000 paintings in the collection gave unique insights into the closed world of the royal household. Many have never been seen in public before. "It is the last great royal collection of its kind," said Christopher Lloyd, surveyor of the queen's pictures.

"What it offers as a whole is a uniquely illuminating insight into the lives and times of Britain's kings and queens, princes and princesses." One picture to be filmed for the series shows a love-struck Queen Victoria — remembered by the nation as a portly woman with a dour personality — posing in a glamorous evening dress, her hair loose around her shoulders.

Police recover stolen violin

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Police said they recovered a Stradivarius in the same northern town where it was stolen from a car in 1987. The violin, belonging to the French musician, Pierre Amoyal, is valued at more than \$2.6 million.

It was made in 1717 and had once belonged to Czar Nicholas II of Russia. The violin had been stolen from Amoyal's car in the town of Saluzzo, near Cuneo.

Police said they arrested two men and two women Saturday, all Italians, for investigation of receiving stolen property. They made the arrests after stopping a Mercedes Benz car near the Saluzzo train station. The violin was found in the car. Police feared it was about to be transferred out of the area. Amoyal was expected to arrive in Italy in Tuesday to pick up the violin.

50-year-old woman finds her parents

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A 50-year-old inherited a small fortune and found her family tree on the same day. The woman had no idea who her parents were until last weekend, when she was told she had inherited 2.2 million kronor (\$417,000) from a Polish-born circus artist, an estate administrator said Monday.

Erling Karlsson said he spent a month tracking down the woman, who he declined to identify other than as "Monica." "After my call, she did not sleep during the whole night. I think she was shocked by being identified with reality," Karlsson said.

The woman was left at a foster home in Sweden as a child and never heard from her parents. Her father, Oskar Bind-Jewelo, was 81 when he died in Germany last year. On his deathbed he mentioned he had a daughter, Karlsson said. Bind-Jewelo was a juggler and rope-walker. During World War II he performed in Sweden with a woman of Asian descent, Monica's mother. Karlsson said the mother may be alive and settled down in the United States. She was believed to have moved there after living for many years in Denmark, where she was married to another man. Karlsson said the woman was being sought, but provided no further details. Bind-Jewelo never contacted Monica who "apparently was leading a good and orderly life in her foster home," Karlsson said.